



## Vegetable Production Enterprise for Better Life

**Food Security Through Agribusiness in South Sudan Project (SSADP II)** – funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy in South Sudan for five years with a total budget 10 Million Euro. The intends to support 10,000 farmers, 1000 Start-up agribusiness (Youth and Women entrepreneurs), 750 Existing Agribusiness (MSME) and Private Sectors aimed to improve Household food security, household income and create jobs in Yambio, Torit and Bor. The project strives to increase farmers’ and agribusiness access to inputs, technology, markets, and finance. The project is implemented by a consortium of NGOs led by Cordaid that includes SPARK and Agriterra.

As of Dec 2020, the project reached about 8060 farmers (51 % female), established, and supported 190 FEMA groups, 123 cooperatives, 60 VEMSAs (that emerged from either FEMA or coops to mobilize saving and contribute social fund - so far; mobilized 17 thousand USD as saving), 225 MSME and 188 YWE. Moreover, it formed 51 CMDRR committees, conducted 45 PDRA, 2 Conflict Risk Analysis (in Torit and Bor), engaged 6 Privates Sectors (2 on agro input dealership, 2 on Poultry Feeds Production, 2 on Honey, Sorghum and Gnuts Processing) and granted worth 92 thousand USD. Together with RUFi the project developed three loan products and created A2F for 23 cooperatives (comprises of 878 members – 47% female), 3 individual progressive farmer and 8 YWE, 2 MSME and 3 FEMA (comprises of 51 members – 43% female); so far, RUFi disbursed 134 Thousand USD and collected 24 Thousand USD as repayment as per the repayment schedule. The project also facilitated C-BED Training for 36 Coop and 25 VEMSA representatives (281, 40 % female) as part of RBDS to enhance their agribusiness skill and to develop their business plan for Technology Fund on Value Addition and Start-up Seed Money Grant Respectively<sup>1</sup>.

Upon support to farmers in 2020, farmers reported an increase in production in maize by 60%, sorghum by 50% and groundnuts by 2% compared with their harvest in 2018 baseline data; the ground nuts low performance was due to over rain in the season. According to the data collected from 413 farmers during End year LTO Indicators survey 36% farmers reported that as their income is increased after the project, compared with last year although the inflation which is approx. 100% make the comparison complicated. In addition, the project created job for more 50 youths in different agribusiness activities.

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<sup>1</sup> NGO – Non-Government Organization; FEMA - Farmers Economy and Market Association; VEMSA – Village Economy, Market and Social Association; USD – US Dollar; YWE - Youth and Women entrepreneurs; MSME – Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise; CMDRR – Community Managed Disaster and Risk Reduction; PDRA – Participatory Disaster and Risk Analysis; RUFi – Rural Finance Initiative; C-BED – Community Based Enterprise Development; RBDS – Resilience Business Development Service; and LTO – Long-term Outcome



Khamis Marlin Taban age 39 years old, the mother of six children, lives in Torit County, Askal residential area of Fodofodo Boma in Nyong Payam. According to Khemisa, life used to be difficult for her before she received the support from the Project – SSADP II through SPARK on Business Skill Training and Business Plan Preparation for

Access to Finance from RUFU. Khemisa said *“life was difficult because she used to rely on washing clothes (dobby) and piggery to earn income of which pigs were sold after 8 months while the income from doobby was about 2000 SSP per day”*. In addition, *“I am a trained teacher, but I used to be paid 1,500 SSP per months and it could take about 5 months to get the salary”*. So, I was not able to get enough money to cater for the basic needs of the family such as medical bills, feeding, children schools fees and clothes.

With the help of the project, I developed a business plan and the BDAs assisted me to meet the Revolving Loan Fund Scheme Eligibility Criteria and applied for 600,000 SSP Loan from RUFU, as part of Access to Finance of the project, to start vegetable gardening. After I received the 600,000 SSP loan from RUFU, in June 2020, I established St. Monika Enterprise which specialise in Vegetable Production for Market. The vegetable garden is 100 metres by 80 metres and the vegetable grown in the farm include: Cowpeas, Tomatoes, Kales/sukumawiki, Spinach and Green Pepper.



After I established the Enterprise, she said, there has been a great improvement in our standard of living as a family; *“There is improvement in the standard of living, provision of food and other basic needs becomes very easy”*. She said the project has made her known by many farmers, link her with Awarawara (vendors), restaurant/hotel owners and enable her to create friendship with customers as well as the community members. Khemisa said the project has empowered her and make her proud and I quote *“The community members appreciate me and saying this is the only*



*women farming well in the area and encourage me to continue, so am proud of that appreciation”*.

*Khemisa said from vegetable sale she gets up to 17,000 per day on good days and 2,000 SSP on bad days. She said she could earn an average of 120,000 SSP per month. According to*

*Kemisa, she got highest income from the sale of tomatoes, sukumawiki and green pepper i.e. a kilogram of tomato at 500 SSP, 20 pieces/buddle of sukumawiki at 100 SSP and three pieces of green pepper is sold at 100 SSP.*

Khemisa however said she faced some challenges which include poor quality seeds from the supplier, pests, and diseases infestation as well as she used to faces challenges on timely payment of loans but she negotiation with RUFU management to reschedule her repayment and the project helped her technically on Good Agricultural Practices and Integrated Pest Management. Due to



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the experience, she developed in the past 9 months on vegetable farm management enables her to make the loan repayment as planned and intensify her vegetable production management.

In conclusion, Mrs. Khemis thank the Organisation for providing her with loan which enable her to become self-reliance and capable of employing 3 youths whom she pays every month 5000 SSP per month for each worker's, she provides food (breakfast, lunch and Dinner) and Shelter.