

THE 19TH RUFORUM AGM EXPERIENCE IN CAMEROON REPORT
BY GORDON VICTOR AKEJO, BSC AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND
EXTENSION EGERTON UNIVERSITY

Introduction:

The AGM served as a valuable platform to reflect on GAO Ug's initiatives, particularly through the guiding questions posed during the panel discussion.

Outstanding Change as a TAGDev Fellow:

As a TAGDev fellow, the experience was transformative both professionally and personally. Exposure to innovative agricultural practices and community engagement broadened perspectives and instilled a sense of responsibility towards sustainable development.

Passion for Working with Farming Communities:

The choice to return to Uganda and engage directly with farming communities was rooted in a deep-seated passion for empowering farmers and entrepreneurs. This commitment was a testament to the dedication to effecting change at the grassroots level and fostering sustainable development. Furthermore, it reflected the vision to create employment opportunities for young people within the community, contributing to both individual growth and the overall prosperity of the community. This endeavor was not merely a professional pursuit but a heartfelt mission to catalyze positive transformations and provide avenues for meaningful employment, especially for the vibrant youth in the community.

Focus on Seed Enterprise, microfinance credit services and Value Creation:

The dedication to seed enterprise and microfinance credit services, specifically delivering quality seeds and providing access to credit to farmers, translated into tangible value for rural communities. Improved crop yields, enhanced food security, and increased incomes highlighted the positive impact on the economic resilience of the communities involved. For instance, in one cropping season GAO-UG supported 4,300 farmers with maize and sunflower seeds worth 43,083 US Dollars and access to finance to 148 farmers to a total of 7,000 US Dollars. In return, the value of grain production by farmers was 1,494,000 US Dollars.

Future Outlook:

Looking forward, the vision is to play a pivotal role in Uganda's agricultural development. Over the next five years, the goal is to expand the reach of GAO Ug initiatives, leveraging partnerships and innovative approaches to address evolving challenges faced by rural communities.

Impact Realized:

The intervention of GAO Ug resulted in significant changes, including improved agricultural practices, economic empowerment, and enhanced community resilience. The stories of women farmers and entrepreneurs thriving, supported by our initiatives, underscore the tangible impact realized on the ground

Conclusion,

The AGM provided an opportunity to showcase the positive outcomes of GAO UG Limited through a panel discussion and exhibition. The dedication to sustainable development and grassroots impact was evident in the transformative changes witnessed in the communities we served. I appreciate the opportunity to represent Egerton Alumni in Cameroon as a beneficiary of transformative education offered at Egerton University



