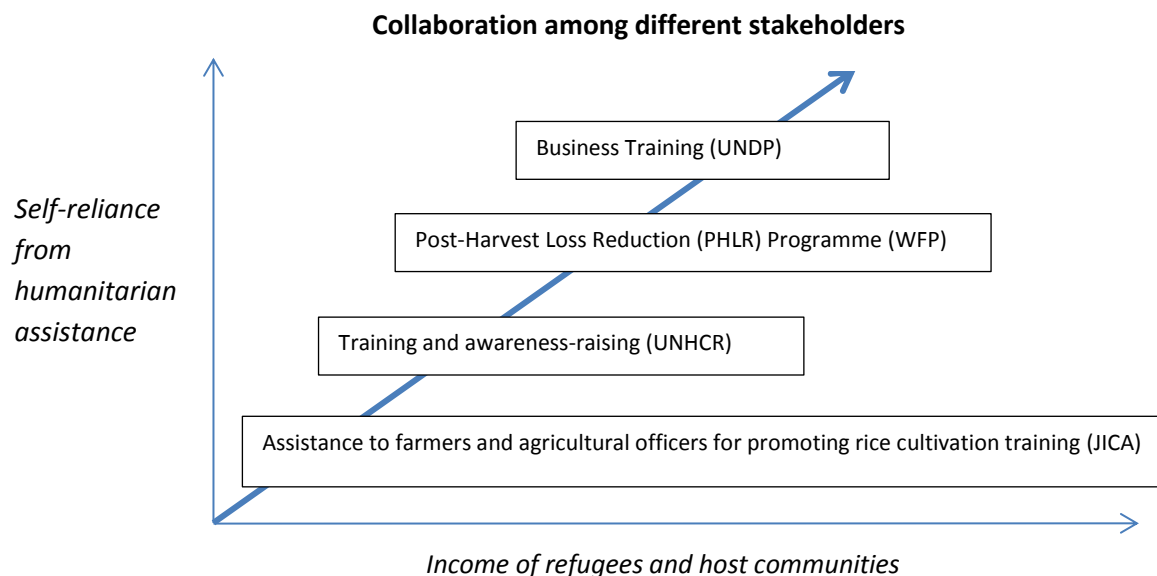


## Uganda

### Collaboration among UNHCR, UNDP, WFP and Japan's Technical Assistance (2016 - 2017)

#### 1. Overview

- 1) Under its generous refugee policy, Uganda is hosting over 1.4 million refugees from South Sudan, the DRC, Somalia and other neighboring countries (Biometric registration and verification process is currently on-going as of April 2018.). Under Uganda's constitution and domestic legislation, including the Ugandan Refugees Act that came into force in 2006, refugees are provided with access to residential and agricultural land, freedom of movement and employment, and access to public education and health services. Uganda has incorporated refugee issues into its second national development plan.
- 2) Under Uganda's second national development plan, rice has been designated as one of the 12 priority crops for investment. JICA has been working with Uganda since 2008 on the Promotion of Rice Development (PRiDe) project for cultivation of NERICA rice in the country. In addition, in relation to rice promotion, since 2003 Japan has been carrying out "the Technical Assistance Support to Sustainable Irrigated Agriculture Development Project in Eastern Uganda". As rice does not spoil as easily as maize and other crops, it is not essential to use airtight storage facilities with functions such as humidity regulation. As such, rice is easy to store for long periods, and it also commands the highest price per kilo of all the grains, making it one of the prized cash crops in Uganda.
- 3) In October 2014, JICA signed a MoU with UNHCR and started carrying out rice production training, including training for agricultural extension workers. Over 1,500 refugees and host community farmers have benefited from the training provided through the JICA-UNHCR collaboration. In this case, UNHCR selects the participants and contributes travel and accommodation expenses, and JICA conducts the training.
- 4) In addition, in June 2016, following JICA's rice cultivation training, WFP provided training to the refugee and host community farmers on how to effectively manage and handle crops after harvesting (Post-Harvest Loss Reduction (PHLR) Programme).
- 5) On top of these collaborations, UNDP conducted business and entrepreneurship training for the farmer groups which were supported by JICA's PRiDe project in Adjumani District.



## 2. Lessons Learnt

- 1) There are cases where refugee and host community farmers jointly organized farmers' groups to carry out group farming, which serves to increase the amount of agricultural land farming groups can use. By having refugee and host community members, these groups have been able to utilize the land both inside and outside refugee settlements and thus increase their total production and income. In addition to these benefits for both refugees and members of host communities, these groups are contributing to the peaceful co-existence of refugees and host communities.
- 2) An improvement in the selling price per kilo of grains was observed as a result of the post-harvest handling training in which participants learned about appropriate methods for drying crops, controlling humidity, and storing to protect crops from mold or other damage. They were also informed on the reasonable market price for grains so that they would have more bargaining power. An appliance for post-harvest preservation was also made available for purchase at subsidized price, making it possible to store grains for sale at times when rice and other crops fetch a higher price, and this contributed to an increase in income for both refugees and host communities. Moreover, enabling farmers to produce different types of grains also contributes to ensuring resilience as it reduces vulnerability to losses caused by drought and other environmental impacts (e.g., some crops are more resilient than others against drought).
- 3) Additional income earned through rice cultivation has also helped to promote greater variation in the ways in which people make a living. One example of this is that a refugee farmer used an additional income earned from selling the rice he produced to start a barbershop business. In this way, rice cultivation contributed to earn extra capital for people to invest in alternative means for livelihood and helped them make their livelihood more resilient.



Training by JICA expert for refugees and host community



Grain Silos provided by WFP