

SPOT 10: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE – KASAMBIYA FARMERS’ GROUP

STATION CUE: And coming up next [Presenter’s Name] with a special series for farmers all about Farmers’ Groups and Marketing. Today we talk to the Chairman of the Kasambiya Farmers’ Group about credit, facing drought together and a bold vision for the group’s future

FX and Music

(Hold Under Insert 1)

Insert 1 Erisa Nkinze, chairman, Kasambiya farmers’ group **Dur: 0’ 06’’**

People are joining day and night...

Presenter: Yes, the Kasambiya Farmers’ Group is attracting new members and one of the reasons is that its members can borrow money for their farming needs. Borrowing from your own group means lower interest rates – and that’s attractive to everyone. We’ve just heard Mr. Erisa Nkinze, Chairman of the Kasambiya Farmers’ Group, which now specialises in lending money to members. Mr Nkinze explained why this is important

Insert 2: *Erisa Nkinze*

Dur: 1’ 0’’

Yeah, the credit side is very important since as you know if one happened to get a problem we assist him or her because he is our fellow member, to relieve him of that

burden, so that's why we like very much savings and credit being part of our business, because as you know everything is run by money, so we can't exclude it, since we have a lot to do – our children want to go to schools, at times you send your children to school when you have not yet reached the season, and you are assisted by the society, since they can realize your problem, so it is beneficial to us.

Presenter: But of course with lending come anxiety – can members really repay what they've borrowed?

Insert 3: Erisa Nkinze

Dur: 0' 39''

Yeah, it worries us because we keep on checking, and before we offer these loans we have to first realize whether the person given that loan is capable of paying back. So all the times they give security so that they don't cheat the society, that people may lose their money due to poor management. So we are ever worrying and we always carry the responsibility of supervising and collecting that money from those who have taken it.

Sting

Presenter: Credit and Lending is just one of the benefits for group members - another is overcoming difficult times. When we visited Kasambiya the rains were late ..

Insert 4: *Erisa Nkinze*

Dur: 0' 48''

Presently we have a problem of drought and we are worried of this season, because the beans that we got on contract from our buyers so that they may get the bean seed after we have harvested – we are worried that we won't be able to produce something, because we are hit very much with the intensive sunshine. So this season, I don't know, it's God's grace that we are to be through and clear that debt. But as a group we would be confident that we can succeed.

Sting

Presenter: Mr Nkinze looks beyond the difficult times at present and he's a man with a vision ...

Insert 5: *Erisa Nkinze*

Dur: 0' 33"

My vision for the future is that we are willing to gain much from selling together, working together in agriculture, and we hope that in the future we are likely to have even some factories making some finished products from our agricultural produce, and as well develop our incomes more than we are now.

Presenter: But what kind of finished agricultural products is he talking about? Well, his group produces a lot of cassava – so why not start there?

Insert 6: *Erisa Nkinze*

Dur: 0' 32"

We had already put it in our plan for 2004 that at least we manufacture some biscuits from cassava, and we are expecting to get contracts with outside buyers so that maybe we can export our beans and cassava outside Uganda.

Presenter: So the vision goes beyond Uganda's horizons to foreign markets – we wish them well with that and leave you with a final word from Captain David Matovu who says that the only way forward for Uganda's farmers is to form viable groups

Insert 7: *Captain David Matovu, MP for Kooki, Rakai District*

Dur: 0' 26"

So we want to encourage all the communities to form groups. That's the only way to go and that's the only way to survive. We are talking about regional groups, you can see, East Africa, we are saying – Uganda, no market, let's go for East Africa, let's go for

Africa, let's go for global, you know, so you can't survive alone, that the only way to go, the only way to answer, especially as Ugandanese, people from Africa, in terms of market, in terms of production, is to have viable groups!

Music

STATION CUE OUT: And that was 'A Vision for the Future with Kasimbiya Farmers' Group', part of our special series for farmers. If you have any views on what you've heard or if you'd like to start up your own farmers' group why not drop us a line at ..[STATION ADDRESS]. We're always happy to hear from you.