

## SPOT 1: WHY FORM GROUPS?

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**STATION CUE:** And coming up next [Presenter's Name] with a special series for farmers all about Farmers' Groups and Marketing. Today the topic is a question – 'Why form Groups?'. Stay tuned to find out about bargaining strength, better prices for your produce and sitting down with others to discuss your common problems.

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### FX and Music

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(Hold Under Insert 1)

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**Insert 1      Montage**

**Dur: 43"**

*Richard Kanamugire, Councillor, Rakai District:*

Eradication of poverty, definitely, is involved. Because after harvesting and selling they share the profit and in so doing they overcome the problems of poverty.

*Edith Bukirwa, Chairperson, Kamukamu womens' group, Rakai District:*

Working together is good, because everyone helps each other.

*Capt. David Matovu, MP for Kooki, Rakai District:*

Like in the army we survive in groups, you know, you can't fight alone.

*Betty Odom, local community worker, Nyabyeya trading centre, Masindi District:*

So why don't you join a group instead of working alone so that you call other people to come and help you and you pay the money.

*Abdul Rashid Mpamizi, adviser to Bateganda womens' groups, Rakai District (translated from local language by Daude Twase):*

They buy, they say, salt for every group member, they buy saucepans for the group members, so at least they have achieved very many things through the group.

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**Presenter:** When it comes to farming in Uganda the best way forward is for farmers to come together in groups. Why? Well, we've just heard five good reasons: working in

groups is about getting rid of poverty, it's about people helping each other, it's about survival, it's about wise use of money and it's about improved standards of living. If Ugandan farmers are to have a better future then coming together is definitely best. Mr. Daniel Wanzala, Vice-President of Uganda's National Farmers' Association spends a lot of time encouraging farmers to form groups because believe it or not some people think that they're better off doing things alone. Mr Wanzala says that coming together in groups has important advantages when it comes to marketing ...

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**Insert 2** *Mr. Daniel Wanzala, Vice-President, Uganda National Farmers' Association; Chairman, Masindi District Farmers' Association* **Dur: 48''**

**Now when we approach farmers in their individual capacity we persuade them to come together so as to add voice, so that they can build strength, bargaining strength, they can also create a class under which they can be taught, they also create a medium of exchange of experiences among themselves, and then with that formation they can also go out and see what other farmers are doing, and that one does not stop there, they can bulk together and market together and they can also find ways and means of adding value to their products in order to achieve bigger profits.**

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**Presenter:** So, if you still need convincing maybe the idea of bigger profits will do the trick. In fact, working together in groups is nothing new to Uganda. Betty Odom, is a farmer, a businesswoman, a community worker and a mother in the Masindi area. She says that people have been working in each others gardens for decades – it's called 'Maklimba' ..

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**Insert 3:** *Betty Odom*

**Dur: 0' 26''**

**OK, what we have got in our group, we also do what we call in our local language *maklimba*, so with that *maklimba*, the first person, everybody will go and dig in that person's garden, tomorrow they will go to another one, not until you rotate up to the**

end, then you start another again, so in one acre, if they go to your garden twice one acre is over, which is OK.

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### **Sting**

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**Presenter:** So working together and coming together in groups is not exactly anything new in Uganda. Yet, some people still need a small push to actually do it. In Rakai District many farmers' groups are flourishing but there are also individuals struggling alone – they face transport problems, they try to market small quantities of produce, they lack bargaining power and find themselves getting prices well below the real market value. Fortunately, help is at hand. Meet Fred Bikande, training co-ordinator for CEDO – Uganda's Community Enterprises development Organisation. Fred tells farmers that the small push they need to form groups should start with sitting down together to identify what problems they have in common ...

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**Insert 4: Fred Bikande**

**Dur: 1' 28"**

**Well, the type of push I want to give them personally is that first of all let them sit and identify what is their immediate problem. Once they have identified a problem, and the moment it relates either to production or to marketing then specifically they should know that they cannot solve that particular problem as an individual. So let people who have got common interests, especially in the fields of production and marketing, bring their forces together. Then let them come up with common strategies and objectives as to how they are to attack the problem they have, then go in, collectively select an activity or an enterprise in which they would like to get engaged, and it's from that angle that any other person who would like to give them the relevant capacity building in the way of training, in the way of any other kind of support, then will have to come in. If they do not have a common objective, then it will be very difficult to assist them. So they must first of all get a common objective, then lay common strategies and have common activities. Among the common activities is what kind of crops they are going to grow. So when they have decided what kind of crops they are going to grow then organisations like CEDO, like the Department of Agriculture, like NAADS and the rest will now have to come in and give the necessary back-up.**

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**Presenter:** So – the message from Fred Bikande is clear – in groups, farmers can get training and assistance but first they need to decide what their objectives are. If you’re still not convinced that groups are best then maybe our last speaker will persuade you. He’s Captain David Matovu, farmer, soldier and a local MP in Rakai District ...

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**Insert 5: *Captain David Matovu***

**Dur: 54”**

**Me, I’m an army officer, I’m still in service and I’m on leave. Like in the army we survive in groups, you know, you can’t fight alone. So even in this issue of production, we need groups, we need cooperative societies, as long as we have good leadership, leaders who are really of high integrity, moral integrity. I think we can really succeed when we have groups because we address our problems together, you know, struggle together, search together, 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, you know, East Africa, Uganda no market, let’s go for East Africa, let’s go for Africa, let’s go for global. So you can’t survive alone, so I’m encouraging everybody that the only way to go, the only way to answer, especially as Ugandans, as people from Africa, in terms of market, in terms of production, is to have viable groups!**

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**Music**

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**STATION CUE OUT: And that was Why Form Groups? 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. Next time we’ll find out why it makes sense to market together.**