

## SPOT 6: WOMEN AND MEN IN 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 Women And Men in Groups – from whole groups to important places on the executive committees, women are very much a part of the group scene in Uganda – Find out why now ...

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### **FX and Music**

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**(Hold Under Insert 1)**

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**Insert 1:** *Erisa Nkinza, Chairman, Kasambiya Farmers' Group* Dur: 0' 13"

**At times women can be weak and lazy, but if they are with men they are encouraged to do something and they keep on assisting them as they push ahead.**

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**Presenter:** That was Erisa Nkinza, Chairman of a large farmers' group in Rakai District, talking about his group's women members. Can that really be the case – that women can only work well when encouraged by men? For Edith Bukirwa, chairperson of a woman's group in the same district – it's not women but men that need special attention ..

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**Insert 2:** *Edith Bukirwa, chairperson, Kamukamu womens group, Rakai District*

**Dur: 0' 15"**

**Men, they don't care about groups, they don't have feelings to be in a group, they say women are just wasting their time, yeah.**

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**Presenter:** Edith's group has male advisers but it doesn't allow them full membership and the reason? Edith ..

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**Insert 3: *Edith Bukirwa***

**Dur: 0' 24''**

**Ah no, they are not concerned about the money, because the committee decided to choose only women, and men, the men, if they get money it's hard for them to return it back.**

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**Presenter:** In fact women's groups are flourishing in the area. Extension Link Farmer Abdul Rashid Mpamizi says that the reason for all these women's groups is that where they are it's the women who do most of the farming ....

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**Insert 4: *Abdul Rashid Mpamizi, Rakai District Farmers' Association and CEDO extension link farmer, adviser to Bateganda women's group***

**Dur: 0' 51''**

**He's saying the reason why the biggest number of groups around are for women is that it is only the women who care for digging, men at this end they are still on the other backward culture, it's the women who are supposed to look after these small small things, these commodities like buying salt, what – so the women has to work hard in a group. But for the side of the men they only think of, looking after the herds of cattle and then taking beers, and then only to do their work of producing children, they think they are only supposed to do that work, not digging as such, it's for the women.**

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**Sting**

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**Presenter:** The fact that women do most of the farming in certain parts of Rakai District is not just rooted in culture. The area has been very badly affected by the AIDS epidemic and

for some reason more men than women have died leaving the women to look after their families – so says Richard Kanamugire a local Councillor in Rakai District ..

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**Insert 5: Richard Kanamugire, Local Councillor, Rakai District Dur: 0' 20''**

**Here, we had an epidemic, and it is still there, of AIDS, so most men died, leaving widows behind, and even men who remained are engaged in other activities, say trading, so they are always on the move, they are very mobile, men.**

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**Presenter:** But what of Mr Erisa Nkinza's comment we heard earlier – that women needed men to encourage them? In fact he believes that it's good for men and women to work together ...

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**Insert 6: Erisa Nkinza**

**Dur: 0' 25''**

**It's good for men and women to work together because if a man dies before the wife she continues to operate that business, because she has an experience of it. But if you happen to separate them it means that you may not know each other's programme.**

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**Presenter:** There are two ladies on the executive committee in Mr Nkinza's group – so what do they bring to the group?

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**Insert 7: Erisa Nkinza**

**Dur: 0' 26''**

**She advises, also participates in determining the place where to sell the produce, and as well assuring his fellow women what is taking place in the society so that they don't**

**think that men are cheating them or doing whatnot, or doing their own things, but she is there as their ambassador.**

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**Presenter:** You probably know that women have been catering for regional needs for years in the form of Kwete brewing – Betty Odom explains that this group activity cuts across the male, female divide but also across tribal divisions too ....

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**Insert 8: Betty Odom, Community Worker and Farmer, Nyabyeya Trading Centre, Masindi** **Dur: 0' 24"**

**Yes, it is very easy, that is what we are also making around here, because it is like making this *kwete*, it is not only me Acholi able to brew, but so long as we are in the group the Karamajong can brew, the Luguara can brew, the Alur can brew, the Kakua can brew, so for us we are in the group. If the other one brews today, the Kakua will brew tomorrow, the Karamajong will brew the other day, that one, like that, we rotate.**

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**Presenter:** And on that brewing note we ended up at a Kwete drinking session in Masindi District .....

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**Insert 9: George Ongaba, lecturer at Forestry College, Nyabyeya** **Dur: 0' 23"**

**We are in the trading centre, Nyabyeya trading centre, where they are selling *kwete*. It is a market for *kwete*.. And we are with people who are taking it right now. (sounds of market)**

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**STATION CUE OUT:** And that was ‘Women and Men in 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 hear about a women’s group that’s making a huge difference in people’s lives in Rakai District – the Kamukamu Women’s Group.