

SPOT 8: MONEY MATTERS – THE BATEGANDA WOMENS’ GROUP

STATION CUE: And coming up next [Presenter’s Name] with a special series for farmers all about Farmers’ Groups and Marketing. Today a visit to the Bateganda Women’s Group in Rakai District, where we find out how the group members deal with the delicate subject of money

FX and Music

(Hold Under Insert 1)

Presenter: Kayago Village in Rakai District is surrounded by rolling hills, pasture lands and fertile fields of banana trees. In the village is the home of Nabunya Geralda, chairperson of Bateganda womens’ group – we visited the group to talk to them about their activities, how they got started, but above all about money matters. The group has twelve members and they gave us a warm welcome ...

Insert 1 *Welcoming song*

Dur: 0’ 17’’

Presenter: Nabunya introduced herself

Insert 2: *Nabunya Geralda, chairperson of Bateganda womens’ group, Rakai District (local language, translated by Daude Twase)*
Dur: 0’ 19’’

She has said she is called Nabunya Geralda, that's her names, and then she is a citizen of this area called Kayago village, and then she is the chairperson of Bateganda womens' group.

Presenter: The story of the Bateganda Women's Group really starts with Nabunya herself .. in fact it started with a visit to another part of the country – well, they say that travel broadens the mind so why shouldn't it inspire people to form farmers' groups too?

Insert 3: *Nabunya Geralda* (local language, translated by Daude Twase) Dur: 0' 24"

That she visited somewhere, another part of the country, not here, she found the organised women in a group, so she admired the way they were doing their things, so when she came back to her village she decided at least to practice that of which she is seeing that it is fruitful and so successful.

Presenter: The seeds for the group were in fact already there – they were a Burial Group but had no income generating power. After Nabunya's trip all that was about to change ...

Insert 4: *Nabunya Geralda* (local language, translated by Daude Twase) Dur: 0' 28"

They had groups, but only these burial groups, but not income generating groups, so when she visited the other place of Ramagua, she saw that people had the groups, they are doing different activities, they have the income generating activities, and as well they can help in burial ceremonies, help each other. So she decided to bring that spirit in the whole community.

Presenter: So what exactly do the members of the group do to generate income and to keep going? Nabunya ...

Insert 5: *Nabunya Geralda* (local language, translated by Daude Twase) Dur: 0' 32''

They are farmers, they are goat-keepers also, and then they are also helping these needy people, like orphans, and these old people, that's the kind of work, even contracting, some small small contracts like the maintenance of the feeder roads and what, if they are given that chance from the government, those are the activities they are doing now.

Presenter: Abdul Rashid Mpamizi is an extension link farmer and an adviser to the group.

He told us that forming themselves into a group has helped the women's lives

considerably They now have a voice, they have better housing and their families are better off ...

Insert 6: *Abdul Rashid Mpamizi, Rakai District Farmers' Association and extension link farmer for CEDO* (local language, translated by Daude Twase) Dur: 0' 48''

He is saying, as you see we are very very deep in the village, so these people were ignored and were not considered, so when they formed this group they tried at least to pull up, now you see now if you come here you can see at least people are building the good houses, at least they are learning about better living. He was saying that at first these people they were not even getting paraffin and even salt, but at least as the group they have managed to achieve something. They buy salt for every group member, they buy the saucepans for the group members, so at least they have achieved some very many things through the group.

Sting

Presenter: Well, with the improved standard of living of course has come more income for the group members and with this more responsibility for the group treasurer – or to be more exact – two treasurers ...

Insert 7: *Nabunya Geralda* (local language, translated by Daude Twase) Dur: 0' 32''

That they are having two treasurers, what I've seen different from other groups, they have two treasurers, yeah. When they sit at the end of the month, there is something they bring, small small money, it's that first treasurer to keep that money, savings and what. Then they have another treasurer of which, which they can't disclose to us and everybody, who keeps big money, yeah, like bank, maybe like Centenary Bank!

Presenter: At some stage any farmers' groups will have to decide whether it wants to distribute all the income from sales to its individual members or whether to establish a group savings scheme. It may be that initially the group is too poor or in too much debt to contemplate saving even small amounts of money. The advantage of banking money, quite apart from the added security, is that there are many schemes in Uganda to allow groups to borrow. It's a long way from Kayago to the nearest bank but that didn't stop the group making the journey to open an account. Here's Nabunya to tell us about their bank account...

Insert 8: *Nabunya Geralda* (local language, translated by Daude Twase) Dur: 0' 12''

At first place, to open up an account, they went three. Then after opening up an account, is now only the chairperson who takes the money for the banking.

Presenter: So another responsibility for the chairperson – and with it the trust of the rest of the group. We wished them continued growth and prosperity and they wished us a safe journey home

Insert 9: Farewell song from group

STATION CUE OUT: And that was ‘Money Matters’ with the Bateganda Women’s 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. Next time we’ll find out why when it comes to groups Size Matters.