

SPOT 9: GETTING THE SIZE RIGHT – THE ANDINGANA FARMERS’ GROUP

STATION CUE: And coming up next [Presenter’s Name] with a special series for farmers all about Farmers’ Groups and Marketing. Today ‘Getting the group size right with the Andingana Farmers’ Group’ – how big should groups be? Find out now ...

FX and Music

(Hold Under Insert 1)

Insert 1: Montage

Dur: 0’ 19”

Daniel Wanzala, Vice-President, Uganda National Farmers’ Association

We are encouraging a reasonable group of not more than 50. If they are 20, 10, so much the better.

Paul Kibuka, secretary, Andingana savings and credit cooperative group

Yeah, in fact we are happy because we want this working-together spirit to go on expanding in our area.

Presenter: What size should farming groups be? Well, the answer depends where you are and who you are. In Uganda farmers tend to grow a wide variety of crops and find it difficult to communicate with each other. The best way for them to make plans and market their goods is for them to meet face to face – by calling meetings. The more people attending a meeting, the more difficult it is to make sure that everyone’s voice is heard – size is important but it’s just one part of a whole range of problems that groups have to solve.

Today, we'll be talking to Paul Kibuka, secretary of Andingana - a very successful group in Masaka District, which has been particularly successful in marketing maize. He has told us about the main problem facing his group's members ..

Insert 2: *Paul Kibuka*

Dur: 0' 22''

I'm Paul Kibuka, the secretary to Andingana savings and credit cooperative group, which is situated in Moma, in Nakatoga parish, Nabakaza sub-country, Rakai District. The problem for farmers is mainly unreliable markets when they are selling their goods, that's the main problem around our place.

Presenter: As with all successful farmers' groups Andingana set about identifying their problems ..

Insert 3: *Paul Kibuka*

Dur: 0' 26''

In the early days we came together as people living in the same place, having identified our problems, especially when selling our goods, we could get low prices, so we decided that if we could form a group, dig together, sell together, we could maybe get a bit more money for our produce. And then, we wanted to learn how to save and to lend to each other so that we could solve our financial problems.

Presenter: One of the things Andingana got right from their very early days was that they started out small. Fred Bikande the Training Co-Ordinator for CEDO - Uganda's Community Enterprises Development Organization - says that this was a wise decision ..

Insert 4: *Fred Bikande, Training Coordinator, Community Enterprises Development Organisation (CEDO)*

Dur: 0' 18''

Let them start in small groups of let's say 15 people. When the 15 have done well then 10 others can join them. When they are 25, there are 15 to share experiences and give them more advice. Then eventually even, if they will become 100, sustainability will be there.

Sting

Presenter: Paul Kibuka says that now there are many people who want to join

Andingana .. and the reason – well it's the group's success ..

Insert 5: Paul Kibuka

Dur: 0' 21''

We formed when we were still very few but now we happen to be a big group. We wanted to continue to become big. And we show our colleagues, our neighbours, our successes, so that they can get interested and join us.

Presenter: The group's growth continues. We asked Paul why he thought this was so ..

Insert 6: Paul Kibuka

Dur: 0' 17''

Why it has jumped up so much – people have liked our group because the government policy is to help those people who have grouped themselves together. So they feel that if they stay outside they may miss some services.

Presenter: One of the successes which has helped the group to grow has been that they have managed to market their maize themselves right to a buyer in Kampala. We end on Paul telling us that part of the story ..

Insert 7: Paul Kibuka

Dur: 0' 42''

You know, how it came, some of our colleagues happened to have some people in Kampala, so when they visited there at that time they found that maize could pick a bit bigger price, so they came back and we picked interest and we said why can't we go to

see if we can go and sell direct for us, and eventually we sent some members from the group they started to go to the market and to take the maize there ourselves.

Music

STATION CUE OUT: **And that was ‘Getting the size Right – the Andingana Farmers’ Group from Rakai District’ 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 a vision for the future is playing an important part in the activities of the Kisambiya Group.**