



SUCCESS STORY

FLORENCE N. BUTEGWA.

My name is Florence N. Butegwa. I am a retired women's rights, advocate. I am the director, and majority shareholder of Healthy Living Essentials Ltd. The farm has emerged as a model farm, regularly hosting small-scale farmers and agricultural technical staff from Kibaale district and beyond, in line with the National Agriculture Policy.



This is the company that owns HESS Farms, a mixed farming enterprise that includes:

- A goat unit that supplies small-scale goat farmers with Boer/Mubende crossed goat breeds for improved returns, and meat to the local market.
- A poultry unit for layer chicken that supplies eggs to the community and surrounding Towns.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAMME

The supplementary feeding programme was a component of the "Developing a Market Oriented and Environmentally Sustainable Beef Meat Industry in Uganda" project (MOBIP) implemented by UWEAL and other partners. UWEAL's role was to promote the participation of women and youth in MOBIP. I have been a member of UWEAL since 2016.

Through UWEAL, my company participated in the programme to promote supplementary feeding. Based on our existing goat farming, with some limited supplementary feeding for lactating goats, HESS Farms was identified as the Kibaale District pasture host. The programme supported the farm with pasture planting materials (Chloris Gayana, Giant Panicum, sugar Napier, Napier Pakchong, Bracharia Mulato) to cover three acres of land.

PSFU and partners, including UWEAL, also organized a week-long intensive training on supplementary feeding and feedlot management for quality beef production. The training included learning visits to some established feedlots and sessions on raising beef cattle under the feedlot system as a business.

This training proved to be a game changer for my company. HESS Farms saw an opportunity to expand its business to include bull fattening under feedlot.



IMPACT

- HESS Farms has expanded the original acreage of improved pastures from three to seven.
- HESS Farms has installed a solar micro irrigation system capable of irrigating 3 acres of pasture to ensure all-year availability of feeds.
- The company has established a feedlot with an initial stock of 20 bulls.
- As the district pasture host, HESS Farms propagated the pastures and distributed them to women and youth within the district.
- HESS Farms has qualified for Uganda Development Bank special financing for SMEs, to enable the company to expand the bull-fattening feedlot.

TESTIMONIAL

I owe a large part of these achievements to UWEAL. At UWEAL I have found great inspiration, and opportunities to learn and grow as an entrepreneur. I look forward to other growth opportunities, and to supporting other women entrepreneurs to identify and seize opportunities within the beef value chain.

CHALLENGES

- Access to appropriate markets that understand and are willing to pay a reasonable price for quality beef.
- HESS Farms takes its role as pasture district host seriously and wishes to encourage other women and youth to participate in the beef value chain.
- With an expanded bull-fattening operation, HESS Farms will need some technical support to install biogas technologies that enable its operations to be environmentally and climate change smart.

