

Celebrating School Demonstration Garden Project in Amuru – A Gallery of Photos and Stories!



At every school, the SDG members joyfully put their hands together and warmly welcomed our team!



The project is lacking in neither enthusiasm, nor participants! At **Layima Primary School** the number of community members wanting to take part in the project has surpassed expectations:

We only needed 45 parents, but because the interest of parents was so much, we as a group decided that if anyone is interested, they should pay a membership fee. So we are 80 members now, paying the membership fee! (Secretary)

And guess what?

The SDG members want to motivate other parents to pay their school fees on time!

After distributing the 40% of our SDG profit, we will be the first people to pay the school fees, to set a good example to the entire parents. It gives us room to advocate to the other parents to pay their school fees on time.

(Head of Marketing)

Parents were excited to give us the latest updates!



*If you want to walk fast, walk alone.
And if you want to walk far, walk together!*

Our vision is to become strong onion producers. This is why we are already looking for bigger gardens!



At Lujuro, this SDG member proudly presented a sample of onions:
They have not met their maturity yet, but one can perceive their good quality!

He explained the steps of the growing process, underlining their emphasis on organic farming, and expressed his hope for a prosperous future thanks to the profits that the crops, and in particular the onions, will generate!

Pupils at work!

At Layima P/S, P3-pupils also started **their own garden** which they proudly presented!

We have been inspired by this farming and repeated the programme in P3!
(Patrick, P3 teacher)

Having seen the parents garden, we said, we can do the same.
(Irene, P3 pupil)



Pupils Entrepreneurships Clubs have been busy preparing their gardens and some have already started planting.
At Layima P/S, the onions are already in the nursery bed!



The Bee's Kingdom!

Lujuro P/S' P5 and P6 pupils presenting the wonderful poem
'The Bees' Kingdom' by Olany Albert (a teacher at Lujuro P/S):

'Bees! Bees! Bees!

We are the social insects
as busy as ants
with **one mind and heart**.
What! What are we for?
We are for quality products.
Yes, if so, then what?
Yes, if so, then **value addition**.
Whose, whose, for whom?
Correct, correct a bird says
for you, for me,
for all of us
Boost, boost, boost all
households
huuh, let sleeping days lie
oh we shall, we shall and can.

Listen, Listen from me.
This is my say.
Let you listen.

Learn to practise marching.
It's the answer to mature
control.
It decomposes,
It becomes food for the crop
No money for it.

We shall, we shall do it!



Listen, listen for me.
Early bird catches worm.
Therefore, timely planting, early
planting, correct spacing.
- the answer to **quality product**.

We shall, we shall do it!

This is my say,
let you listen.

Crop rotation, crop rotation,
the master to soil conservation.
Practice it so.
The result in constant value addition.

We shall, we shall do it!

Listen, listen to me.
these are the tools for value addition.
Follow the moon beads for weeding.

It controls pest and diseases.
It's as good as child spacing.
No competition for nutrients.
No **mal nutrition**.

We shall, we shall do it!

Listen, listen to me.
This is the tool for quality
products.

You **can make wonders** from
organic manoeuvre.
The food to the soil.
The wealth to the crop.
Be improved.

We shall, we shall do it!

Our words of joy!
Celebration, celebration!
Tones and tones of produce.
They all come out of the bees.
Flowers, flowers, flowers.
Flowers to all the households.
Daily nutrition for everybody!

All children in school.
Life now soft as water.
Flowers, flowers, flowers.
**Flowers for all the bees
kingdom!**

A Pupil reflecting on their SDG experience!

Before you, I am **Ojok Richard** (P7, 14 years), the **member of the entrepreneurship club in Lujoro Primary School**. You are welcome in Lujoro Primary School. We as the school are very happy for selecting our school to have the educative project in our school.

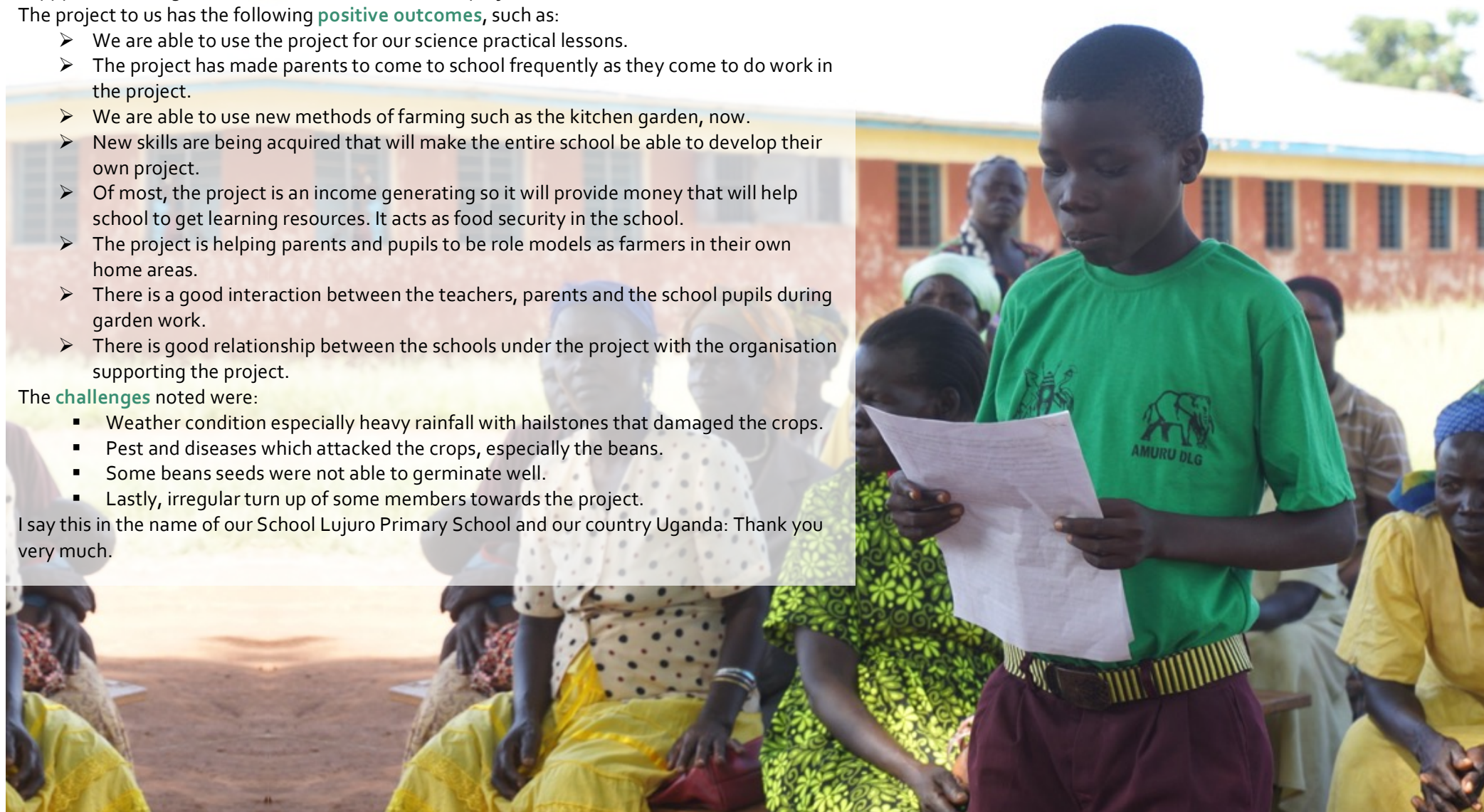
The project to us has the following **positive outcomes**, such as:

- We are able to use the project for our science practical lessons.
- The project has made parents to come to school frequently as they come to do work in the project.
- We are able to use new methods of farming such as the kitchen garden, now.
- New skills are being acquired that will make the entire school be able to develop their own project.
- Of most, the project is an income generating so it will provide money that will help school to get learning resources. It acts as food security in the school.
- The project is helping parents and pupils to be role models as farmers in their own home areas.
- There is a good interaction between the teachers, parents and the school pupils during garden work.
- There is good relationship between the schools under the project with the organisation supporting the project.

The **challenges** noted were:

- Weather condition especially heavy rainfall with hailstones that damaged the crops.
- Pest and diseases which attacked the crops, especially the beans.
- Some beans seeds were not able to germinate well.
- Lastly, irregular turn up of some members towards the project.

I say this in the name of our School Lujoro Primary School and our country Uganda: Thank you very much.



Feedback from Headteachers:



Accellam, Headteacher from Layima P/S about SDG project:

This project has been highly welcomed by the community. When you came, **we received it with all our heart.**

It has brought the **parents very close to the school**, and on top of that, this project will also **help students to take off**. Most of our children here are going back home with some **livelihood skills**. They learn how to grow crops from the school, and they take it back home. And indeed, it will be of very great value to them. So this project, to us, is giving a lot of good things. It is also now **making our enrolment to be a little bit stable.**

With the help of this project, we are planning that by the end of this term, we should start a bit of **school feeding programme**, up from our own initiative, because the beans, that we have grown there, shall be cooked, so that our children should now be able to have lunch and it improves on their performance.

Headmaster from Lujuro P/S:

There is an **apt union** of all the school members and community members – **they see their schools as their own belonging**. They are actively participating in order to **join hands to supporting the school activities, more especially the teaching and learning of the child.**

It is also helping us especially with the parents: when they come to work, they come into the classrooms monitoring classroom teaching. They share ideas with teachers, how to handle the children in learning situations.

The most important impact, I have seen is that parents are picking the knowledge that they are gaining from this project and **are taking it home**. I'm sure in the near future, these parents will soon **have enough food at their home** and the surplus will be sold to help them support their children educationally.

In classroom situation, I have also seen some impacts on the learners, because when it comes to practical work, teachers now take the pupils there. I am sure, that the performance of these learners will be improved.

And I am having a vision, that **this project is making the learners be job creators, not job seekers.**



School Demonstration Garden Groups' Reflections I

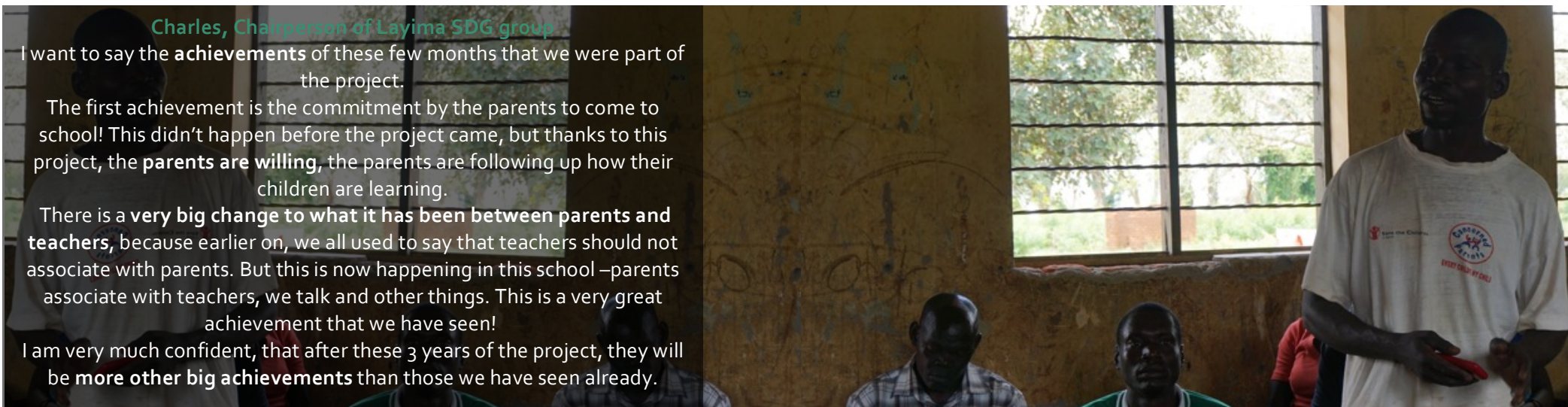
Charles, Chairperson of Layima SDG group

I want to say the **achievements** of these few months that we were part of the project.

The first achievement is the commitment by the parents to come to school! This didn't happen before the project came, but thanks to this project, the **parents are willing**, the parents are following up how their children are learning.

There is a **very big change to what it has been between parents and teachers**, because earlier on, we all used to say that teachers should not associate with parents. But this is now happening in this school –parents associate with teachers, we talk and other things. This is a very great achievement that we have seen!

I am very much confident, that after these 3 years of the project, they will be **more other big achievements** than those we have seen already.



Bandeta, Vice Chairperson of Lujuro Farmers Group:

I am **too too excited** for today, because what I have never thought of that it could happen in Lujuro, today is happening.

At first, as a mother, when I heard about this project, I had a **lot of doubts**. But when we started the actual work, I realised that there was much more knowledge that we as parents are receiving from the training. I see now that **our dreams are coming true**.

What you have brought to us, has empowered us! If we use it very well, especially the VSLA, it is going to save us from poverty, but also from the burden of paying the school fees.

As part of our vision, **we are looking at developing their school**, we're looking at **raising the standard of health of their pupils**. We have a **challenge with the water**, because our borehole broke down, and that is putting our pupils at risk, because they are drinking water from unsafe places. As a mother, I am concerned. But we are seeking different doors to ensure that we are finding a makeable solution to our own problems and very soon, we will find a solution for this water problem.



SDG Groups' Reflections II & Visions

SDG Chairperson of Lujuro Farmers Group:

We started **realising some changes in ourselves**, as parents – we **started developing love for our school and love for our pupils**, in the sense that we became concerned, every time we come to monitor. Wherever one sees any pupil, e.g. playing on the road, even if it's not your child, you bring the child to the school – and that has ensured the attendance of the pupils.

I strongly believe that because of the project, **there are more big achievements to come**.

We are seeing more success in the child too, as this project continues.

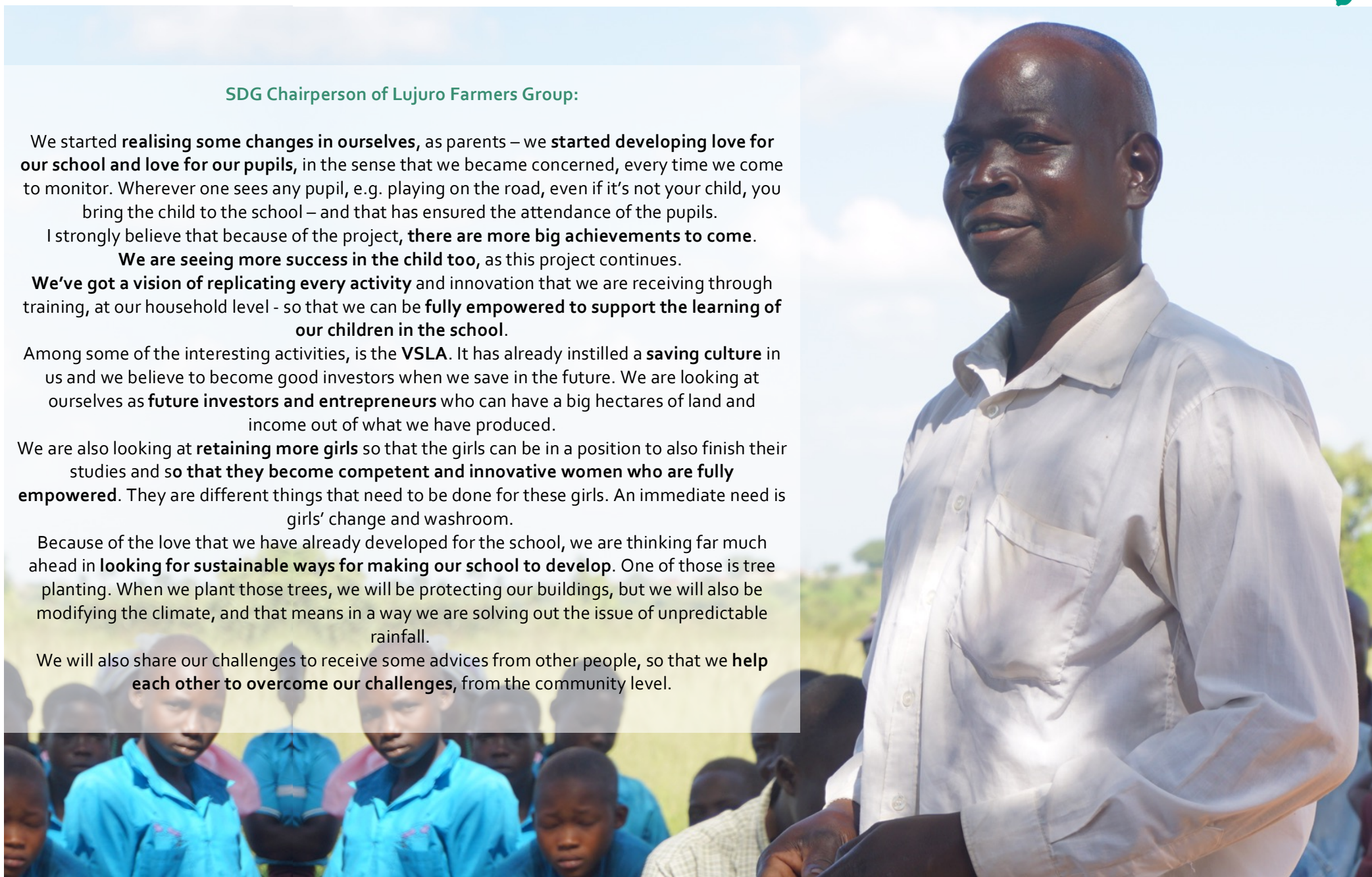
We've got a vision of replicating every activity and innovation that we are receiving through training, at our household level - so that we can be **fully empowered to support the learning of our children in the school**.

Among some of the interesting activities, is the **VSLA**. It has already instilled a **saving culture** in us and we believe to become good investors when we save in the future. We are looking at ourselves as **future investors and entrepreneurs** who can have a big hectares of land and income out of what we have produced.

We are also looking at **retaining more girls** so that the girls can be in a position to also finish their studies and **so that they become competent and innovative women who are fully empowered**. They are different things that need to be done for these girls. An immediate need is girls' change and washroom.

Because of the love that we have already developed for the school, we are thinking far much ahead in **looking for sustainable ways for making our school to develop**. One of those is tree planting. When we plant those trees, we will be protecting our buildings, but we will also be modifying the climate, and that means in a way we are solving out the issue of unpredictable rainfall.

We will also share our challenges to receive some advices from other people, so that we **help each other to overcome our challenges**, from the community level.



SDG Groups' Visions

Charles, Chairperson of Layima SDG group
We have three visions.

One, that has already been achieved, is **unity between parents, the school management committee, teachers and pupils.**

Another vision is that we want to **improve and increase the production at their household level** so that we can be better in a position to support the learning their children, materially, and in terms of providing nutritious and good food to the learners so that they can pick up at school what the teachers are telling them in the class.

Another vision is to **increase our income** and being involved in the VSLA.

These are the visions that we have and we are happy because some of them have already been achieved under this project. And we look forward to achieving the other remaining ones!



Presents and Words of Praise, Inspiration & Encouragement...



As "Farmers believe in giving, because they have been given" (Babra, AR Livelihood Extension Worker), Mette, Bestseller Foundation representative, received plenty of gifts while visiting the SDGs!



... from Bestseller Foundation representative Mette: Be business women and men!

I must say that when I saw your garden, I was **very impressed!** I can also see how proud all of you are, of what you have achieved so far.

And it feels good, doesn't it? – that you see it, you see the results of all your hard work, because **you are the ones creating the results!** You are the ones who have the responsibility to keep taking care of the garden and keep generating income, so you can continue also when the support of the Bestseller Foundation and African Revival is not here anymore.

The BESTSELLER FOUNDATION is funded and backed by one of the wealthiest families in Denmark. The reason why he and his family decided to support this project here in Amuru district is because **it creates business women and men.** What this project is about, is it provides help, but you need to use both your hands, head and your heart to prepare the land, to plant vegetables and to keep it going so that you keep generating a surplus. So you are not just receiving something, say thank you and that's it. You are receiving something and then you have to take up all the hard work in order to keep that pride and that independence that the project can create!

And **I have a lot of faith in you!** When you showed me the garden, I could see how full of ideas you are. You are comparing things and you have also motivated the children at the school to do their gardens. It is very impressive! So keep it up, and keep supporting your children, having a good relationship between the school administration, teachers, parents, children – and then **I am sure in 3 years, you don't even need African Revival, you will have a full garden here and also at home, and your children will be doing well at school!**

Feedback from the Bestseller Foundation:

At the end of Mette's stay, we had the chance to ask here a few questions and receive some feedback :



What did you think of your trip ?

I think it has been **very, very interesting and enlightening**. Within the short period of time that the project has been running, **it has really come a long way** and created a very good basis for the future work.

What do you think of the gardens?

It was beautifully done. You could see that they have some good techniques behind it.

What was your favourite moment ?

What really made an impression was to see **how proud the parents were of the results when they showed me the gardens**, that they had already learnt something and they were really proud of how beautiful the gardens were. And then of course when I was fortunate enough to receive a **present** ! I was given two chickens, some onions and tomatoes and some millet.

Is there a particular outcome that you particularly like?

It's been a relatively short amount of time, but it's clear that the **relationship between parents and school has changed for the better**. Some of the wording that was used from a group member is that they feel now that they own the school, and they are also monitoring the teachers, because they show up at the school and if they see that a teacher is not there, they report it to the SMC and ensure that their children are getting a better education. I think that the whole link between parents and school will, in the end, make the children's performance even better in school, but also their general well-being.

Do you have any feedback to give to AR?

I believe that African Revival has definitely **done their job very well** - also beyond both their own expectations and the foundation's expectations - and created a good foundation for the future work.

What I also tried to highlight when I had the chance to speak is that in order for the project to really become a success and be sustainable, **its very important to regard the school gardens as a business**, that you take care of and invest and reinvest in. So even though you might be happy for the million Ugandan shillings that you earn with good reason, its important to keep looking further ahead and thinking ahead in terms of buying new seedlings and taking care of the nursery, thinking of new ways to diversify the crops, and also then, how do you get the most money for your crops. This is an important aspect of the project because now it looks like the group members have a good understanding of how to grow the crops, and so on, but the next step is to get good value for your crops.