

## **THEORY OF CHANGE FOR CASSAVA APPLIED RESEARCH FOR FOOD SECURITY**

Change in northern Uganda will happen when small holder farmers have improved their food and income security. This can be realized when there is an increase in production and productivity as well as availability of markets for the agricultural products. Within this project, the farmers will be provided with improved cassava varieties; trained on cassava agronomic practices as well as cassava disease management; the project will ensure that demonstration gardens, multiplication centers and Participatory Variety selection centers are in place. We will engage in an applied research to test and evaluate new cassava varieties, cassava pests and disease management, and to determine efficiency of cassava processing techniques. This will lead to generation of new knowledge which will be documented and shared with small holder farmers and other key stakeholders to increase adoption and uptake of the technologies.

Gender mainstreaming will be central to this project to address gender barriers that would hinder women participation in the project; a gender and power analysis was conducted which showed that most of the productive work is done by women and yet the benefits in terms of market engagement and incomes are controlled more by men. The Gender Action Learning System (GALS)<sup>1</sup> methodology will be applied in the project to enhance the position of women in this initiative and to address gender and power imbalances at individual, household and community levels.

Participation of key stakeholders especially small holder farmers will be emphasized to promote ownership of the initiative hence contributing to its sustainability in the long run. Small holder farmers will actively participate in all processes i.e. from variety selection and testing to marketing. We will also engage the District local government technical and political wings at all levels.

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<sup>1</sup> GALS (Gender Action Learning System) is a community-led empowerment methodology using specific participatory processes and diagram tools which aims to give women as well as men more control over their lives as the basis for individual, household, community and organizational development.

# Cassava applied research for food security in northern ToC diagram

