

# FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

## Development of a Gender Responsive Commercial Seed System for AIVs in Uganda

### Consortium Members

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### Project description

Uganda is home to hundreds of African indigenous vegetables (AIVs) with high nutritive value. The most traded and produced are the Solanacea Vegetables. The major challenge for increased production and profitable trade of demanded Solanaceae vegetables is limited access to quality seeds and the absence of participation by women in profitable formal seed markets even though women are the producers of vegetables.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- 1) Enhanced capacity of 50 women and youth groups for production AIVs pre-basic and basic seeds,
- 2) Increased utilization of quality assurance services for AIV seed production
- 3) Developed business models for certified AIV seed production and marketing
- 4) Optimized scales of production for the AIVs seed system.
- 5) Increased economic women power and decision making at household and community level because of engaging in profitable sale AIV seeds.

### Impact activities and preliminary results

- The inception and introduction of the project to vegetable stakeholders in Uganda.
- Establishment of 4 early generation and breeders seeds fields in four regions of Uganda.
- Training breeders seeds for 4 farmers groups in all regions of Uganda.
- Development of quality guidelines for AIVs seed production and Marketing

### Opportunities and challenges

Seed multiplication offers huge opportunities for women and youth farmers that are traditionally growers of vegetables.

This project is designed to benefit 50 farmer groups directly involved in vegetable seed production and 5000 smallholder vegetable farmers, who are mainly women and youth farmers.

Seed production is backed up by seed business services such as entrepreneurship, marketing, and strategic linking and alliances in vegetable seed business clusters. This will entail increased interaction between vegetable seed value chain actors such as producers, seed traders and seed regulators and inspectors.

