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Uganda Department of Meteorology

World Meteorological Organization

RURAL FARMERS'MOBILE WEATHER ALERT PILOT PROJECT 2012 IN KASESE DISTRICT, WESTERN UGANDA

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Grameen Foundation
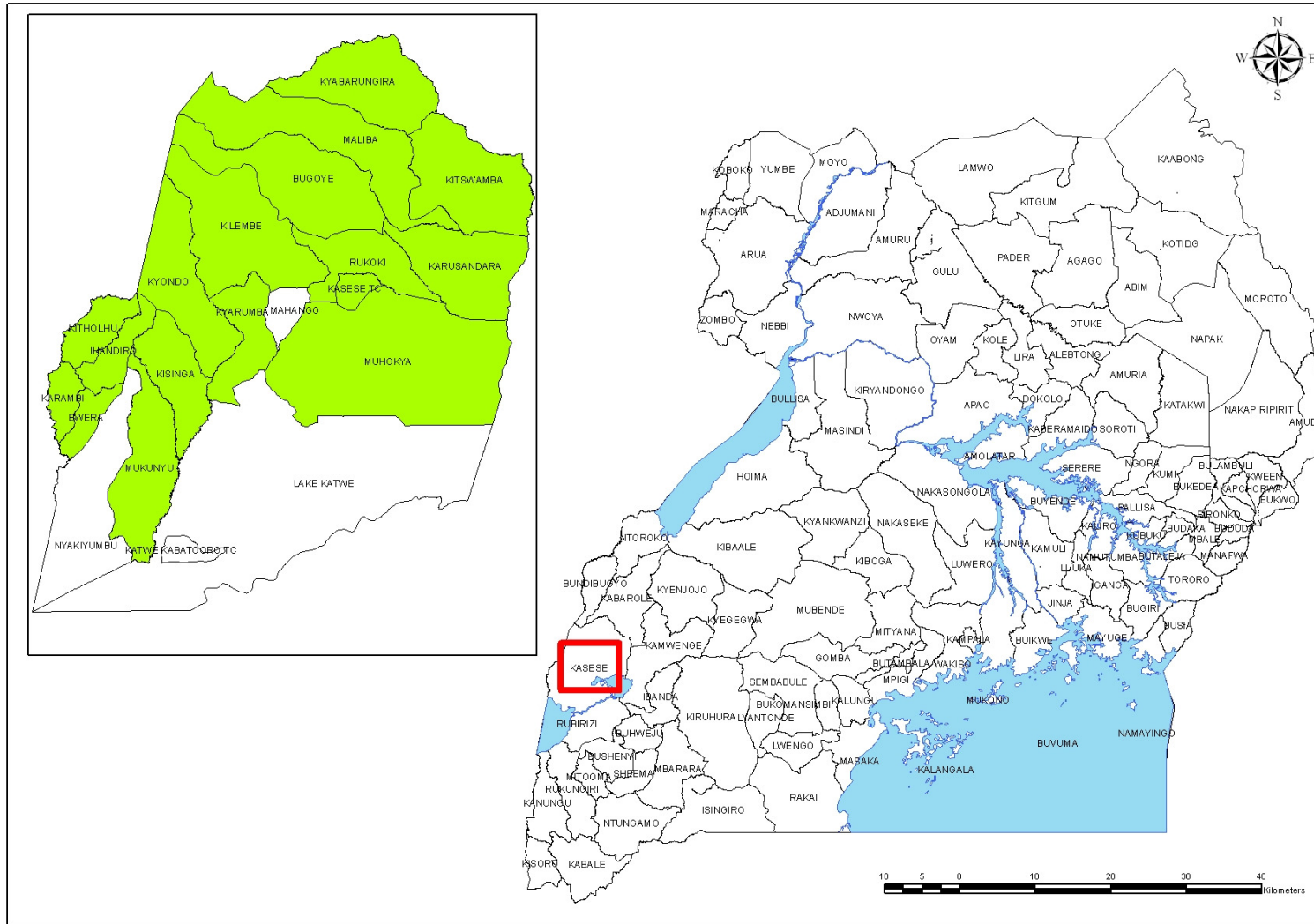**Project Leaders : Planning, Implementation, `Supervision, providers of some inputs, products, M&E**

- In Uganda , the agricultural sector is the most important sector of economy and contributed **77%** of the total employment for the persons aged 10 years and above(2002 Uganda Population and Housing Census).
- The recent Uganda Census of Agriculture 2008/2009 estimated the **farm population at 19.3 million people** . Highest being in **Eastern** Region and **Western** Region at **32.4** and **28.6** percent respectively. Kasese district, where we have the Mobile Weather Pilot project for rural farmers is located in the latter. It lies on the slopes of the mountains of the Moon, , Rwenzori with all climatic zones.

Kasese landscape in Western Uganda

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Majority of population in Uganda is involved in subsistence agriculture which is rain fed, prone to

❑ Frequent severe weather events like prolonged dry spells, shifting and unpredictable rainfall patterns, lightning strikes, hailstorms and floods.

❑ There was need to increase resilience at the community level to weather variability, management of risks and improvement of their livelihoods (food security, better incomes) by communicating weather forecasts, warnings and advisories to agricultural communities through Community Knowledge Workers(**CKWs**) via mobile technology for good farming practices.

➢ Understand weather information needs of rural communities

➢ Provide reliable, accurate and actionable weather information

AppLab Uganda

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Community Knowledge Worker Initiative

Caroline Chelangat – An isolated small farmer

- 80% of the population is involved in agricultural (Subsistence)

- Distance from farmers' union/town: **30 km**

- **Less than 6% seek information from extension workers**

- Income: **<$1.25 a day**

- Farm population: Majority with less than 10 acre**s of land**

- Education Level: 16.9 % Never been to school &61.3 %

Primary level : UCA 2008/2009

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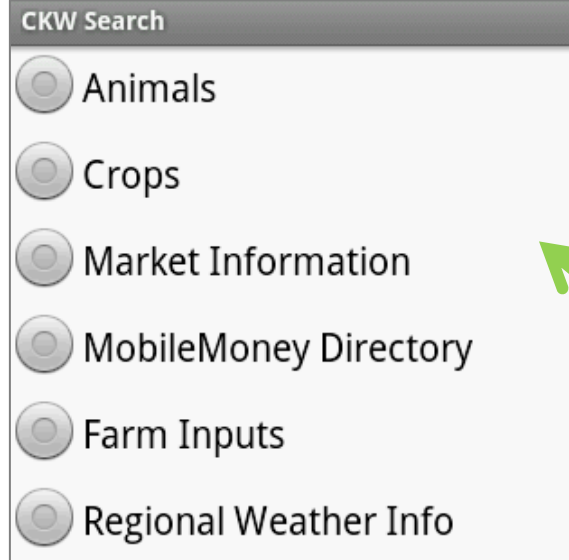# The Idea: Community Knowledge Workers

Public & Private Development Stakeholders

Enabled by ICT tools

* BUSINESS IN A BOX *
- **Android GPS Smart phone**
- **Solar charger**
- **Weighing Scale**

CKW Search
- ○ Animals
- ○ Crops
- ○ Market Information
- ○ MobileMoney Directory
- ○ Farm Inputs
- ○ Regional Weather Info

APPS
- **CKW Search**
- **CKW Pulse**
- **CKW Surveys**

CKW Surveys > WFP Baseline Survey

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What are the sources of income for your household ?

- ☑ --- Agriculture (Including crop sales)
- ☑ --- Agriculture (animal & product sales)
- ☑ --- Unskilled labor/daily

▪ Community Vetted
▪ Farmer
▪ Level of education