All the ways we reach farmers…

Database

Call Center & Tracking

AppLab cloud services

CKW Knowledge-base

Call Center

CKW intermediaries
- Community vetted

Content team
Expert Rev. Board

Web interface

•SMS subscription & broadcast channels
•Voice
•Farmer SIM

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IDENTIFICATION OF FARMERS' CONCERNS AND ISSUES BEFORE ON SET OF RAINS IN AUG 2012, KASESE

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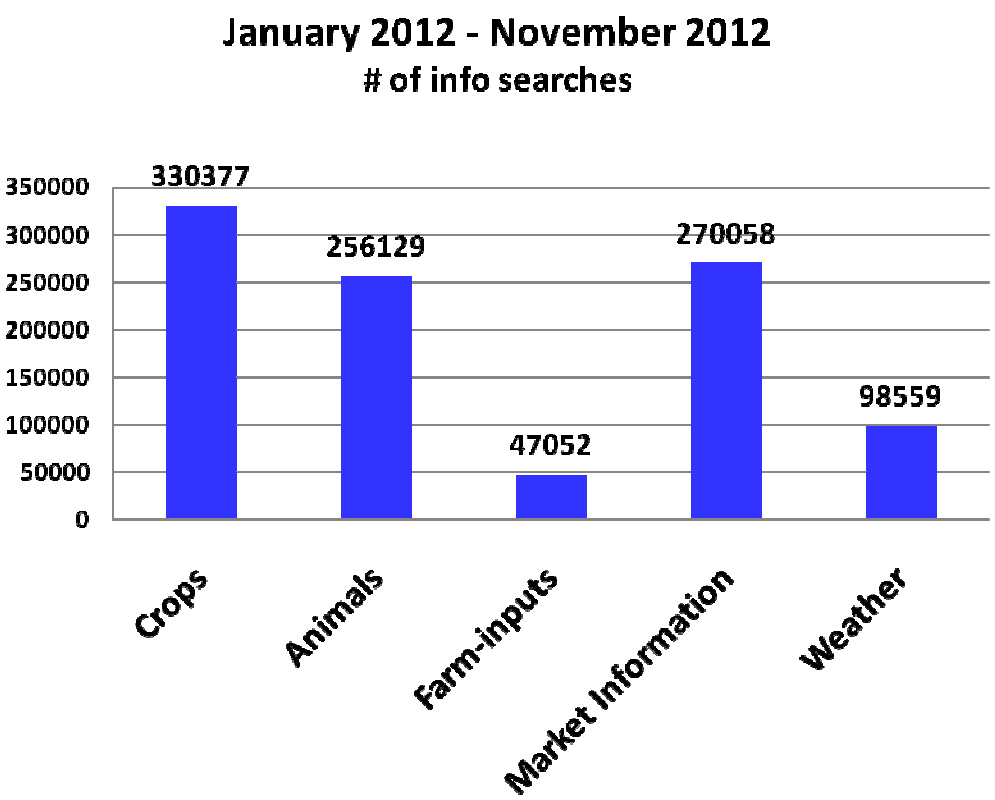
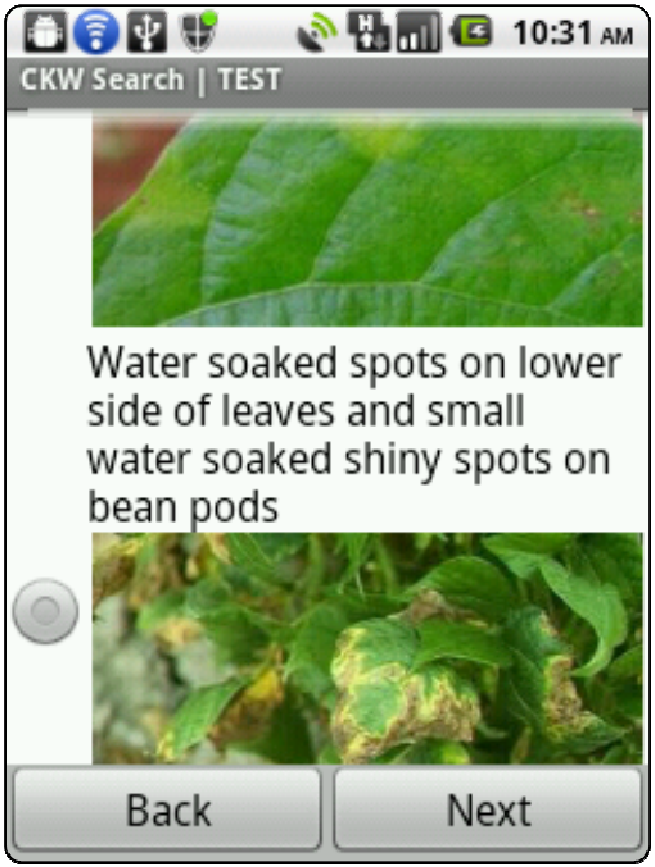
What the farmers are asking about?





MOBILE ALERT PROJECT

UDOM & WMO

Weather and Climate Information

-Daily weather
- 10 day
- Monthly
- Seasonal forecast
- Advisories

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- Load info to tech platform

GRAMEEN FOUNDATION CKW

- CKW Smart Phone
-CKW Search,
-Farmer Group
- SMS
-Surveys

REGISTERED FARMER

-SMS
-Local language
- Radio (FVR)
- Feed back through surveys
- Call Centre

- **Build digital dashboard**
- **Provide platform to disseminate weather information**
- **Collect data using CKWs and mobile tools**
- **Analyze results**

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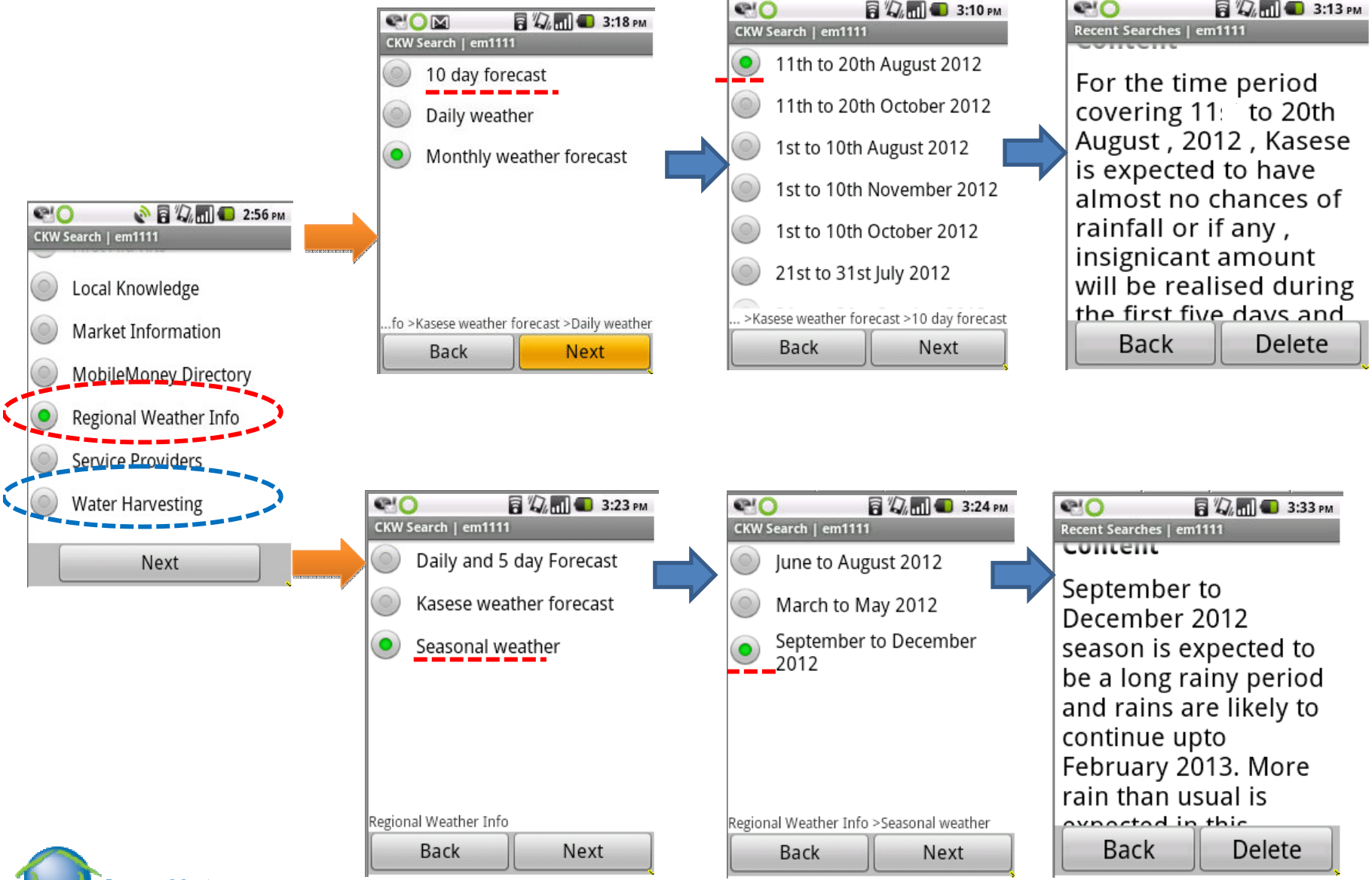
Weather Information Screen capture



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Challenges identified

•Farmers need a seasonal forecast in advance of time three or two weeks before onset of rains, location specific weather forecasts with respect to smallest units (parishes/ subcounties)

•Kasese being predominantly mountainous with several valleys poses alot of challenges in mobilization , movement and transmission of communication signals .Phone network signals are occassionally absent temporarily paralsying operations of mobile phones meaning some delays in deliveries of messages and feedbacks.

•Not all farmers possess mobile phones and there is also lack of electricity in most villages for immediate charging of phones.

•A few isolated cases of wrong perceptions about weather instruments witnessed. Raingauge was partly considered as a factor associated with prolonged dry spells and disappearance of rainfall . Of recent(October 2012) lightning strike a household near one of the raingauge's location at Kanyatsi II parish in Kitholhu subcounty and this was entirely attributed to the presence of a raingauge .

•Overwhelming numbers for one CKW at parish level

Lessons learnt

- Increased demand for weather and climate products from farmers rising from 19000 in March 2012 to 40000 farmers by December 2012 in just one district.
- Roving seminars play a critical role in educating farmers about the significance of seasonal forecast in planning farming operations ,choices on quality of seeds & crops including water/ rainharvesting techniques.
- There is need to use multiple channels(modern , conventional) for dissemination of seasonal and weather forecasts to reach a big farming population.
- Bundling advisories with feasible interventions in the event of prolonged dry spells and floods.
- Use of both English and major local languages was identified, implemented and applauded by farmers.
- The use /integration of pre-existing structures like CKWs who are farmers themselves at parish levels offered opportunities to disadvantaged farmers to access information as well.

Successes registered

- During September - December 2012 rainy season , one farmer reported a bump harvest in beans of 5 bags of drybeans (each a 100kilogramme bag) out of 50 kilogrammes planted . This he attributed to strict adherence to a seasonal forecast ,weatherforecasts,and advisories issued by Department of Meteorology .
- Farmers have built confidence in products and require continuity.
- High expectations on a bump harvest for this season. Beans have already manifested this

Way forward

- **Capacity building in agrometeorological forecasting(crop yield predictions), generation of farmers' customised products , analysis as well as mapping of wet and dry spells for those deployed in agrometeorology.**

- **Putting new,improving and widening network of stations observing parameters pertinent to agricultural sector needs (soil moisture content, temperature at various soildepths, rainfall, evaporation, wind).**

- **Rolling and scaling up services to more districts in 2013 but with provisions for future scientific assessments and evaluations.**

- **Specialised forecasts in 5years time for two crops(food secure & high income crops) in each region /climatic zone of Uganda.**

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Project Pictures

Met official in Kasese District teaching CKWs how to read measurements of a Rain Gauge

CKW “Tinka” interviewing a farmer on the severe weather events experienced and how they have affected farmers

Farmer Roving seminar to verify receipt of weather information and to understand their weather and climate information needs

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Thank you!

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