

Subject: katerera progress

From: KATERERA AREA COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISE <ug.kace1@remcu.net>

Date: 09/11/16 22:55

To: robert.porter@remcu.org, rtabula@remcu.org, chernandez@remcu.org

My name is Assingwaire Dennis, the manager Katerera Area Cooperative Enterprise which is a registered cooperative located in Katerera Town Council, Rubirizi District, in western Uganda.

The cooperative started in 2008 with a small number of farmers close to 2020, but with the continued determination by the farmers I lead, our population began to step up as we were joined by many other development partners namely ABI TRUST, KILIMO TRUST, RADIO E-MAIL CONNECTIONS UNLIMITED (REMCU) now formally called Internet for Humanity and many others.

I would love to appreciate the work and the good relationship this cooperative has had with internet for humanity which donated a computer laboratory with all computers connected to the internet, this was done during the tender age of the organization and a lot has been gotten from this system/relationship.

#### BENEFITS OF THE COMPUTER LAB TO THE COOPERATIVE

With the dedicated staff of internet for humanity most especially Tabula Robert and Mr. Robert Porter, we were able to attain training both physically and on phone ever with Mr. Tabula and the result are as follows.

#### MARKET RESEARCH

Marketing was one of our biggest problems when we started in 2008, after 2012 when we received the computers and internet and taught how to use this resource, we started getting orders from big buyers and this was through the use of the cheap compressed internet.

The increase in our market base, attracted more farmer groups to join us which made more produces available for sell on the available market that we had created with the computer system.

By using this computer system, we now have international agencies who buy our produce. This computer system has made our market grow from local to international markets, the cooperative now exports its produce to France, Europe and Sudan in addition to the large local market.

This has made the cooperative grow its finances rapidly to a level that we are able to pay all our staff and most of the individual serious farmers are doing well. To give a bit of statistical analysis, the population of the organization is now 8,739 farmers and 26 staff members now well paid.

Our organization and the nature of work we do, allow us to follow up on most of our individual farmers. Records show 5,120 farmers have had their incomes raised most especially in the last three years.

About 2000 farmers have school going students and are able to pay school fees without any difficulty as it was in the past, out of the 2000 farmers, 189 farmers have had more than two university going students and at least a big number of these have attained papers from the different universities of Uganda, most important some are already working and earning well.

A good number of our farmers have transformed from grass hatched houses to well constructed houses and because of the continued income flow, they are able to afford the basic needs in their respective homes.

As a result of the good incomes we are getting from the sell of our produces, we managed to form a credit union amongst our farmers and this has helped them to get their money at any time they need it to be injected into their farms.

The credit union has also helped kill the too much paper work/conditionality requested by the banks in Uganda for one to access a loan, to be open; it is very difficult for local farmers to access a loan from any of our banks.

The fruits that have come out of the best market we have now are endless and some we do not come to know given the big number of farmers the cooperative has. All this is attributed to internet for humanity for the support you gave us some years back.

Our prayer is that more people shall donate to the organization so that other cooperative in Uganda can be able to partake of what we have now.

## COMMUNICATION

The location of our cooperative is rural to a level that getting one with a computer might be a miracle. Before we received these computers,

I used to travel very many kilometers from the village to a centre with internet in order to make any communication. This always took a lot of money and time which would be spent doing other constructive farmer work. When God blessed us with the internet for humanity system, all this routine had to stop and the expenditure for the organization was cut down.

The cooperative could spend close to 970,000/= per month on communication and my transport to town to make the necessary communications on behalf of the cooperative, this computed per year gives you 11,640,000. After we received the computers, the board of directors decided that all this money be injected directly into the farm of the cooperative. This has been done now close to four years and the results are great.

You can not tell how many children, this money has/is educat(ed)(ing), provided food, clothing, medical care and many other needs for. We are really grateful and is the reason that from your monitoring tool, our computer system is always active and will always be.

## RESEARCH ON DISEASES

The internet has so much helped us in research on the different diseases that do affect our farm crops and animals, this has also done great for us because through the use of this system, we have had the president of the republic of Uganda visit our cooperative twice to basically learn of how we are using the system to better our farmers. This would not have been true if we did not have these computers from internet for humanity. Thank you so much.

## COMPUTER STUDY

Like earlier mentioned, Katerera as a village did not have any computer and this would clearly tell you that not very many people knew anything about computers, this was cutting across the staff that I had. With the donated computers, all my staff is able to use the computers and some farmers who have the desire to learn computer. Thank Mr. Tabula Robert and Mr. Robert Porter for the great support and of course to all donors of internet for humanity. May God surely bless you for you have been a blessing to others.

Yours faithfully

Assingwaire Dennis  
Katerera area cooperative enterprise  
Manager

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REMCU Internet for Humanity; Delivered via GMN XGate