

Access to agricultural land and improvement of income and employment prospects for youth in Uganda



Implementation manual

Global Programme Responsible Land Policy (GPRLP)

Thematic Pilots on the Valorisation of Land Rights in Benin, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Uganda

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Department Rural Development, Agriculture

Friedrich Ebert Allee 36 + 40

53113 Bonn, Germany

T +49 228 44 60-0

E-Mail: GlobalvorhabenLand@giz.de

Website: www.giz.de/responsiblelandpolicy

Responsible:

Dr Klaus Ackermann, Programme Manager, klaus.ackermann@giz.de

Dr Oliver Schönweger, Nexus Pilot Coordinator, oliver.schoenweger@giz.de

Ms. Christina Ketter, Country Manager in charge of RELAPU, christina.ketter@giz.de

Authors: Mr. Alex Muhumuza and Mr. Bjorn Jensen (NIRAS)

Layout and Illustrations: Samira Loibl (NIRAS)

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Disclaimer:

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List of Acronyms

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CBA	Cost-Benefit Analysis
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DLB	District Land Board
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPRLP	Global Programme Responsible Land Policy
LC I	Local Council I
LED	Local Economic Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PRUDEV	Promoting Rural Development
RELAPU	Responsible Land Policy in Uganda
RoI	Return of Investment
SWOT	Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats
ULC	Uganda Land Commission
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association

1 Summary

The Global Programme Responsible Land Policy (GPRLP), in collaboration with local institutions, actively engages in facilitating the issuance of use and ownership certificates for young smallholders and their families. In Uganda the Responsible Land Policy in Uganda (RELAPU) is the country implementation of the GPRLP. "Access to agricultural land and improvement of income and employment prospects for youth" is organised under RELAPU which is implemented in collaboration with the project Promoting Rural Development (PRUDEV).

Limited access to agricultural land poses a significant challenge for the region's youth, who aspire to engage in agriculture as a means of livelihood. In areas, where agricultural productivity remains low, the scarcity of accessible land further compounds the problem. Customary land is allocated to the families, which means that the parents are in control of the land, who often are reluctant to pass on the user right to the younger generations as this land serves as their security for income. This intervention addresses the hurdles faced by youth in obtaining and registering arable customary land for agricultural use and income generation.

This manual outlines five key elements necessary for the successful implementation of land access interventions for youth:

Element 1) Survey local requirements and opportunities

Including a review of legal frameworks of customary land, identification and validation of youth groups, gender evaluation, selection of youth groups and awareness creation meetings.

Element 2) Develop an intergenerational business model

Including pilot family selection, analysis and selection of appropriate options for youth access to arable land, study of siblings right to customary land.

Element 3) Analyse income and employment prospects through agriculture

Including cost-benefit analysis for different crop enterprises, agricultural value chain analysis, business actions through youth groups, and appropriate selection of enterprises by the youth.

Element 4) Formalise access to land

Including awareness creation on formal land registration, identifying and solving bottlenecks for registration of customary land, establishing Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) committees at community level and preparing land leases for families without sufficient land.

Element 5) Capacity building for youth groups

Including identification of knowledge gaps for increased agricultural production, stakeholder involvement, training and roll-out of trainings.

The pilot was implemented in Amolatar district and has demonstrated its validity to secure access to land. In future applications, it is anticipated that families will be able to obtain access to agricultural land, either through their family rights to customary land or by leasing land commercially. This increased output may lead to a surplus of crops that can be sold in local and regional markets, thereby increasing the income of young people. Additionally, the surplus production can serve as the starting point for the families to engage in agri-business by taking on some of the early steps in the value chain, e.g. processing, transportation or trade and thereby create employment opportunities. The model demonstrates a robust foundation for formulating and replicating similar interventions in comparable contexts. During the validation phase, adjustments may be necessary based on local requirements or specific needs.

2 GIZ engagement in securing land rights in Uganda

GPRLP is part of the BMZ special initiative "Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems" and extends its reach to various countries, namely Uganda, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Cameroon, Niger, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast (already closed: Peru, Laos, Benin and Paraguay).

In Uganda, the majority of the population resides in rural areas, with agriculture serving as the primary source of income. However, even in comparison to regional standards, Uganda is confronted by substantial hurdles in achieving sufficient agricultural productivity and value addition through cultivation. The sector struggles are apparent through low yields, significant post-harvest losses, poor production quality, and limited agricultural knowledge.

Adding to these overarching difficulties, youth are not being allocated customary land, as long as their family already has access and usage right over parts of such land. Recognizing the urgency of these issues, Uganda has taken significant steps towards land law reform through its progressive constitution and land policy. The National Land Policy 2013 addresses the urgency of Youth's access to land and policy decision-makers and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have identified the need for reinforcement in the upcoming policy review.

The RELAPU project under the GPRLP, in collaboration with local institutions, actively engages in facilitating the issuance of use and ownership certificates for young smallholders and their families. These certificates serve not only as a foundation for empowering smallholders, but also for promoting economic growth and ensuring food security, because only with long term land security, farmers will invest in their land. Supporting youth access to land for increased income and employment involves identifying and securing suitable land for young individuals to engage in agricultural activities, thereby improving their income and employment prospects.

The GIZ interventions most relevant for the "Access to agricultural land and improvement of income and employment prospects for youth" (in short the Nexus pilot) initiative are RELAPU, and PRUDEV. RELAPU is implemented in coordination with PRUDEV.

PRUDEV's mission is to uplift the rural economy in selected regions of Northern Uganda through Local Economic Development (LED), enhancing the capacities of district local governments and cooperatives, introducing climate-smart agriculture-based development and fostering access to financial services and agricultural inputs. By generating employment, increasing income, reducing poverty, and enhancing food security, PRUDEV drives agriculture-based development in these rural areas. The core project objective is to maximize the potential of the agricultural sector for rural economic growth by integrating smallholding farming enterprises into value chains. Thus, PRUDEV focuses on creating the necessary conditions for rural economic transformation and growth. In addition to building capacity, it strengthens various up- and downstream sectors and improves access to financial services and investments.

RELAPU's multifaceted approach aims at improving land rights and governance in Uganda through institutional advancement, by enhancing the institutional framework and processes for safeguarding land rights. This involves a systematic land inventory, the foundation for land ownership and land use certificates. Furthermore, it aims to strengthen civil society's role in advocating for responsible land policy and enhance its capacity to provide information to the population and to guide Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). It encourages dialogue with the government and the private sector, while fostering collaboration with civil society as an implementing partner. Finally, RELAPU raises awareness among agricultural investors about responsible land policy.

3 Scope and use of the implementation manual

The manual derives insights from Uganda's existing national legal framework for land administration, incorporating technical methodologies and insights gained from the responsible land administration practices tested during the Nexus pilot. The manual draws lessons from the experience of the RELAPU project on customary land registration in the districts of Amolatar, Soroti, Katakwi and Dokolo along with good practices in land governance from around the world. The essence of the manual is to serve as a stepwise guide to users on the processes and procedures that can improve land governance of customary land in Uganda. Users will amend the information in the manual depending on the revised policy, legislation, and local circumstances and contexts. It's important to note that users have the flexibility to adapt the information in the manual according to the evolving policy landscape, legislative changes, and local contextual variations.

Customary land

Customary land is land which is owned by communities and managed in accordance with their customs. User rights are guaranteed by the clan leader to individual families for farming and seasonal grazing, access to water, pasture, firewood gathering and other activities. No specific ownership rights or control are conferred on users. Rights to customary land are derived from being a member of a clan, family, tribe or a given community. Membership is retained by fulfilling certain obligations in accordance to the clan, family tribe or community one is affiliated to.

Source : <https://justicecentres.go.ug>

Aim of the implementation manual: The main purpose of the implementation manual is to introduce the model and approach developed in the Nexus pilot and this information is intended to be utilized for replication in similar contexts. Specifically, it seeks to support initiatives that aim to replicate or scale up efforts to provide agricultural land access for youth in Uganda, and thereby enable farming opportunities for them. The manual outlines detailed procedures, drawing lessons from existing land administration laws, legal aspects of land hire agreements, basic agricultural practices, value chain development, youth group management and business opportunities. Its thematic focus centres on youth access to customary land, formalise the access by land registration or lease arrangements to secure tenure, engagement in commercial agriculture and increased income. It offers technical methods and shares experiences from the pilot process, guiding users to effectively acquire agricultural land.

Target audience: The manual is designed for a diverse audience, including government authorities, civil society organizations, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)s and private sector entities involved in land administration in Uganda. This includes political leaders at various national and local levels, government authorities e.g. ministries, departments and agencies, district and sub-county local government, cultural leaders, clan leaders, land actors and institutions, and physical planning committees.

Limitations: While the manual is comprehensive in addressing land rental agreement and business development for the youth, it may not delve deeply into other aspects of land management which are not related to customary arable land, youth involved in non-agricultural activities and youth not members of a group. It is primarily centred on the specific challenges and opportunities associated with customary landholdings.

Usage of the manual: It is a step-by-step guide for enhancing customary tenure security for the youth and engaging in agricultural production on customary land. The manual should be used in conjunction with other relevant policies and users are advised to consider the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) to ensure sustainable land use and conservation practices.

4 Context and Objectives of the intervention

The realm of land governance in Uganda is a complex and dynamic landscape shaped by a combination of legal frameworks. The legal foundation for land governance in Uganda is anchored in the Land Act of 1998 and the Land Amendment Act of 2010. These laws establish the framework for land tenure, ownership, and administration. They also introduced key institutions such as the Uganda Land Commission (ULC) and District Land Boards (DLBs) to oversee land-related matters at the national and district levels.

Despite this legal framework, Uganda faces a set of preconditions that complicates land governance. According to UN-HABITAT, about 80% of all land in Uganda and 90% in the northern region is held under customary tenure, a system that often lacks clear documentation and formal legal recognition. It is estimated that 18 million parcels of customary land are unregistered.

The delicate balance between protecting customary land tenure and fostering economic development continues to challenge land governance efforts. Nevertheless, article 32(2) of the 1995 Constitution prohibits cultures, laws, and customs that undermine the dignity of youth, women, orphans, and other marginalized groups in exercising their land rights. In this context, Uganda continues its journey toward more equitable and transparent land governance.

4.1 Analysis of the major issues

Uganda's land governance sector faces several significant issues, incl. land disputes, which affect a wide range of individuals and local communities who have competing claims to land. The most common level to address land disputes between or within rural households are the Local Council I (LC-1)¹ courts, which state that 90% of their cases are related to land. Otherwise, tenure conflicts are usually addressed by Alternative Dispute Resolution committees or other paralegals, often supported by CSOs and grounded in traditional authorities. Procedures like these have proven very effective in the context of land registration all over Uganda.

Young people often aspire to engage in agriculture, but lack access to land due to various factors, including land scarcity, cultural practices, and inheritance patterns. Customary land is allocated to the families, which means that the parents are in charge of the land. Yet, parents are reluctant to pass on the user right to the younger generations as this land serves as their income assurance. If passed on to the next generation, who have their own families to look after, the parents would be left without this security. Various government agencies, CSOs and NGOs have recognised the problem and are involved in initiatives aimed at increasing youth access to land through land redistribution programs, skills training, and awareness campaigns.

The agricultural productivity in general is very low and the harvest often fails to cover the costs associated with cultivating the land. Several factors contribute to this predicament. Limited access to resources, including modern farming equipment, quality seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation infrastructure, can hinder productivity. Additionally, reliance on traditional farming methods is inefficient, and a lack of awareness or knowledge about advanced agricultural techniques can further impede sufficient results. Farming decisions are often not grounded in economic assessment, e.g. gross marginal analysis market opportunities or farming systems.

¹ A Local Council (LC) is a form of local elected government within the districts of Uganda, and LC-1 is the village level of these elected government bodies.

They are more commonly driven by traditions and inputs promoted by the government, instead of being rooted in the farming households' demands and potentials.

Equipping the youth with essential agricultural skills is of paramount importance. These skills should include a range of practice-oriented expertise, including crop cultivation, livestock management, pest control, soil conservation, and sustainable farming practices. Without these foundational skills, individuals, particularly the youth, may find it difficult to make productive use of the land they acquire, thereby limiting their ability to derive economic benefits and ensure food security. Additionally, training may include financial literacy, marketing strategies, and access to critical agricultural support services, ensuring that young farmers can not only cultivate the land, but also turn their farming endeavours into profitable and sustainable ventures.

The absence of clear land titles is a common issue, particularly in Northern Uganda, where many land holders rely on customary tenure systems that lack formal documentation. Communities and individuals, especially those in rural areas, who do not have clear land titles, may face difficulties in securing their land rights and accessing credits for agricultural development.

4.2 Addressing identified key issues

The Nexus pilot addresses challenges faced by youth in accessing arable customary land for agricultural cultivation. It emphasizes facilitating access, whether within family holdings or through renting from neighbours. A key aspect involves securing land titles under customary tenure, providing legal recognition and protection for cultivated land.

The initiative addresses low agricultural productivity by providing capacity building for participating youth, including training in basic agricultural skills. Recognizing the importance of climate-resilient agriculture, the initiative provides recommendations for implementing Climate Smart Agriculture practices, essential for mitigating climate change effects on productivity. Furthermore, the Nexus initiative supports families in land registration and tenure security, raising awareness about the benefits of land titles and providing assistance throughout the registration process.

The Nexus pilot assists in identifying business opportunities within agricultural value chains. It also supports the development of business cases for pilot families or youth groups to create long term plans that promote sustainability and scalability. It is fostering self-sufficiency and contributing to regional economic development. By doing so, it contributes to addressing unemployment concerns, which have the potential lead to social unrest.

In order to ensure sustainability, the initiative guides and supports pilot families in preparing detailed business plans covering various aspects of production, marketing strategies, and financial management, fostering thriving enterprises in the long run.

Youth groups
All youth groups involved in this pilot have started as a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) and are still saving groups. A VSLA is a self-managed group that does not receive any external funding. Every member can contribute between 2,000 and 10,000 Ugandan Shillings per week and can obtain a loan according to their investment. Interest rate is 5%-10% per month and loans must be paid back within 3 months.

4.3 Response approaches

The Nexus pilot was implemented in Amolatar district. Initially the pilot started with two youth groups in Arwotcek in October 2021. Out of these, 75 families from the youth groups were assessed. Eventually, 25 families were selected to test the suggested intergenerational business models. These families were chosen based on their primary engagement in farming, with 10 female farmers managing 18 acres and 15 male farmers managing 28 acres. Later, it was decided to further test the model with youth groups that already had the option of getting their land certified. Hence, the area was expanded and 4 more youth groups were included, two in Muntu and two in Awingiri sub-counties. These groups had a total of 82 members, 52 males and 30 females (see Table below).

District	Amolatar		
Sub-county	Awotcek	Muntu	Agwingiri
Members	82 (52m, 30f)	45 (26m, 19f)	37 (23m, 14f)
Pilot families	25 (15m, 10f)		
Trained as trainers	8 (4m, 4 f)	8 (4m, 4f)	8 (5 m, 3 f)
Farmers trained	54 (30m, 24f)	53 (29m, 24f)	34 (20m, 14f)

The purpose of the Nexus pilot was to develop a model which can be replicated in other areas, that are facing similar challenges. This model emerged in response to a survey highlighting the scarcity of parcels available for young people, including shortage of land currently under the jurisdiction of local authorities and communities. Consequently, the pilot opted for a business model approach, which was further developed throughout the implementation of the model.

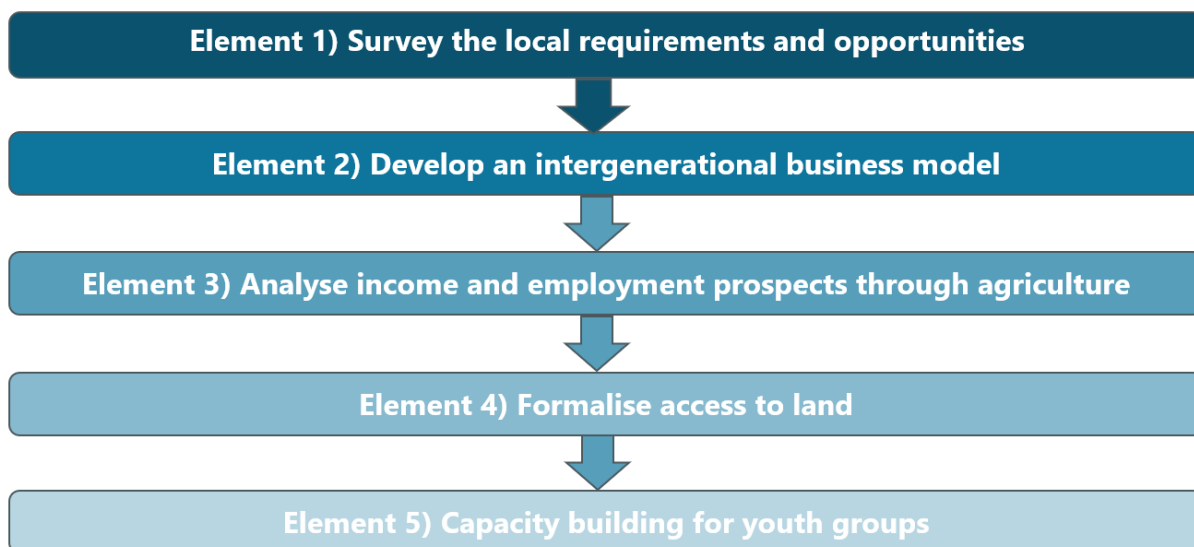
The overarching concept revolves around an agreement to engage in an intergenerational business model, which has been further supplemented to involve leasing land from neighbouring farmers on a commercial basis. Similarly, the approach of family-based business development has been expanded to encompass the group as the fundamental unit for business engagement. The intergenerational business models are designed to ensure the availability of land over an extended period of typically 5 years, as opposed to the conventional 1 year lease. The purpose of longer leases is to prevent soil fertility depletion by promoting climate smart cultivation practices and allowing for investments in perennial crops and irrigation systems. One essential element of these models is the registration of user rights to customary land in the name of the parents, with the younger generation also mentioned on the land certificate. This arrangement allows the land title to be integrated into a business plan, potentially leading to reduced interest rates when seeking loans from banks. It also secures long-term land use.

To safeguard the interests of all parties involved, the agreement is structured to avoid potential constraints. Firstly, it ensures that the use of the land doesn't automatically grant user rights, thus avoiding the subsequent exclusion of other siblings from their land rights. Another aspect to be included is equal access and opportunities for men and women. Legally, there are equal land rights for all, irrespective of gender. However, there is a difference between legality and common practice as customary land is managed under customary laws and traditions. The practices vary in different communities and usually favour males' right to cultivate land.

The agreement guarantees the continued use of the land throughout the agreed-upon period, e.g., 5 years. The involvement of the clan leader is required for co-signing the agreement. Unlike the prevalent practice of paying the entire rental fee upfront for the entire leasing period, these models propose payment per season. The payment terms are detailed in the lease agreement, which also includes a clause specifying the cancellation of the agreement in case payments deviate from the agreed terms.

5 Implementation process

The Nexus pilot comprises five interconnected elements that constitute the intervention process. The main components are outlined below and explained upon in subsequent chapters.



Key considerations for successful implementation, across the elements, include:

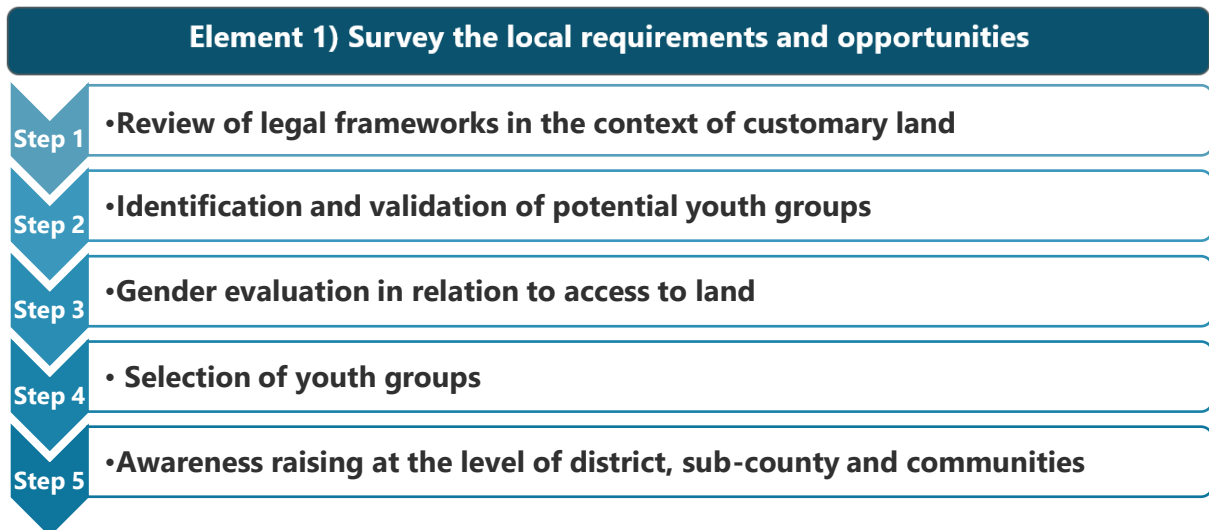
- **Collaborative planning and decision-making:** Facilitate participatory planning sessions involving representatives from local organizations, community members, and relevant authorities. Encourage open discussions, brainstorming, and consensus-building to develop a shared vision for the access-to-land intervention.
- **Define Clear roles and responsibilities:** Encourage the formation of task forces or committees responsible for specific project aspects, such as land allocation and community outreach.
- **Promote inclusivity and transparency:** Conduct regular community meetings, feedback sessions, and progress updates to ensure all stakeholders are informed and actively engaged.
- **Encourage local resource mobilization:** through partnerships, grant applications, or fundraising initiatives. Empower local organizations to take the lead in securing necessary resources for a successful implementation of land access interventions.

The elements should be implemented in a specified sequence as the numbers indicate, although it is not mandatory for the full completion of one element before commencing the next. The crucial aspect is ensuring that the preparatory conditions are satisfied before initiating each element. Below is a suggested 2-year time schedule for the five elements required for successful implementation.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	23	24				
Element 1	█																											
Element 2					█																							
Element 3							█																					
Element 4								█																				
Element 5														█														

5.1 Element 1: Survey the local requirements and opportunities

It will be necessary to get accustomed to the prevailing legal framework and the customary laws and traditions before embarking on any intervention within these guidelines. It will also be required to obtain accurate information about the physical sites, tenure and ownership status, local traditions and people living in the given area as well as being appropriately introduced to the local authorities and get their acceptance and support to the proposed intervention. The required steps are:



5.1.1 Review of legal frameworks in the context of customary land

Reviewing legal frameworks in the context of customary land in Uganda requires an understanding of customary practices, land tenure and relevant national laws and regulations.

- **Understand the current legal framework:** by examining the existing legal framework governing land rights in Uganda, incl. the Constitution of Uganda, Land Act 1998, Land Amendment Act 2010, Land Acquisition Act 1965, and any other relevant legislation. Study the specific provisions that relate to customary land rights, land registration, and land administration, focusing on how they apply to relevant districts.
- **Research customary land tenure systems:** Gain an in-depth understanding of the customary land tenure systems that exist in the district. This involves studying the traditional practices, norms, and beliefs related to land ownership, use, and transfer in the local communities. Consult with local clan leaders, other community leaders and traditional authorities, and additional stakeholders to understand the historical contexts and dynamics of customary land management in the region.
- **Identify challenges and issues:** Identify the key challenges and issues faced by the local communities regarding customary land rights. This includes conflicts over land, land grabbing, insecure tenure, gender disparities in land ownership, and other pertinent issues.
- **Assess implementation and enforcement:** Evaluate how effectively the existing legal framework is being implemented and enforced in the district. Identify any gaps or discrepancies between the law and its practical application on the ground. Analyse the role of local government authorities, customary institutions, and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation and enforcement of land-related legislations.

- **Engage with stakeholders:** Conduct consultations and engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, civil society organizations, legal experts, and government officials. Gather their perspectives and insights on the strengths and weaknesses of the existing legal framework and aspects potentially in need of reforms.

5.1.2 Identification and validation of potential youth groups

Identifying and validating potential youth groups requires engaging with local authorities, conducting field visits, and leveraging existing community networks.

- **Collaborate with local partners:** Collaborate with local NGOs, youth-focused organizations, farming cooperatives and development partners working in the districts. Leverage their expertise and networks to validate the legitimacy of potential youth groups and gather additional information about their activities and achievements.
- **Utilize community networks:** Reach out to district youth councils and community development officers. Inquire about the registered youth groups and seek their assistance in providing a list of active youth organizations in the area. Tap into community networks, such as community-based organizations, schools, churches, and local youth centres, to gather information about the youth groups operating in the area.
- **Verify the legitimacy of identified youth groups:** Verify the legitimacy of the youth groups by assessing their registration status, internal structure, leadership composition, and compliance with the local regulations governing youth organizations. Confirm their compliance with the relevant legal requirements for operating as recognized youth groups.

5.1.3 Gender evaluation focusing on access to land

Women are often not having equal opportunities for accessing land as they are expected to be married and therefore will have their interest covered by their husband and in-laws. To compensate for this, a gender analysis in the context of land access and ownership needs to be carried out. This will require consideration of various factors, including social, cultural, economic, and legal aspects that should be reflected in the inter-generational business model. The steps below integrate both quantitative and qualitative methods to ensure a holistic understanding of gender disparities and provide applicable strategies for promoting gender equality in land access.

- **Research:** Collect data on land ownership, tenancy, and land use disaggregated by gender. Compare the proportion of land owned or controlled by men and women. Conduct interviews, focus group discussions, and case studies to understand the social and cultural norms influencing land access for men and women and identify any discriminatory practices or biases affecting land access.
- **Legal analysis:** Scrutinize national laws, policies, and customary regulations concerning land rights and evaluate whether these legal requirements are gender-neutral or if they favour one gender over the other in terms of land possession and inheritance.
- **Addressing gender biases in customary Laws:** Ensure awareness of gender biases the drafting of agreements between generations to promote equitable land access.

- **Perception survey:** Conduct surveys to gauge the perception of community members regarding gender roles in land ownership, tenure and use. Assess any prevailing stereotypes or cultural beliefs that influence land access for men and women.
- **Economic impact assessment:** Analyse the economic implications of gender disparities in land access, including effects on household income, agricultural productivity, and overall community development.

5.1.4 Selection of youth groups

The purpose of working with the youth groups is making use of the organisations and communication paths to each household to facilitate improved access to land for agricultural cultivation. Once the groups are short-listed, the selection of the youth groups to be involved is based on understanding the local agricultural context, engaging with the community, and assessing the capacity of the youth groups.

- **Initial assessment and group empowerment:** Conduct an assessment of each youth group's skills, resources, and aspirations. Visit farming sites and interact with youth groups directly involved in agricultural activities. Assess their farming practices, productivity levels, use of technology, and adherence to sustainable farming methods. Evaluate their potential for scalability and their impact on the local agricultural sector. Reach out to local agricultural authorities, such as agricultural extension officers and farming cooperatives, to gather information about the existing youth groups involved in farming activities. Seek their recommendations on the most active and promising youth groups in the area.
- **Evaluate youth group capacity and skills:** Conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT)² analysis for each youth group and evaluate the capacity and skills of the youth groups in areas such as crop cultivation, agribusiness, marketing, and value addition. Assess their ability to adopt modern farming techniques, utilize resources efficiently, and adapt to market demands.
- **Select the groups:** based on merits, considering their demonstrated commitment, innovative approaches, and potential impact on the local agricultural sector. Prioritize groups that exhibit strong leadership, teamwork, and a clear vision for sustainable farming and community development.

5.1.5 Awareness-raising at the district, sub-county and community level

To ensure the acceptance and ownership of the relevant local authorities, officially as well as unofficially, it is suggested to conduct awareness-raising meetings with relevant stakeholders about the problems that the youth are facing with access to agricultural land and the problems with the current administration of customary land, making it difficult for the youth as long as their parents are the only land holders within the family structure.

- **Planning and preparation:** Develop a comprehensive plan that delineates the objectives, key messages, and activities for each awareness-raising meeting level. Identify accessible venues and dates, ensuring inclusivity. Gather pertinent materials, including informative pamphlets from cooperatives, like GIZ and other relevant projects in similar contexts.

² Please see annex 10

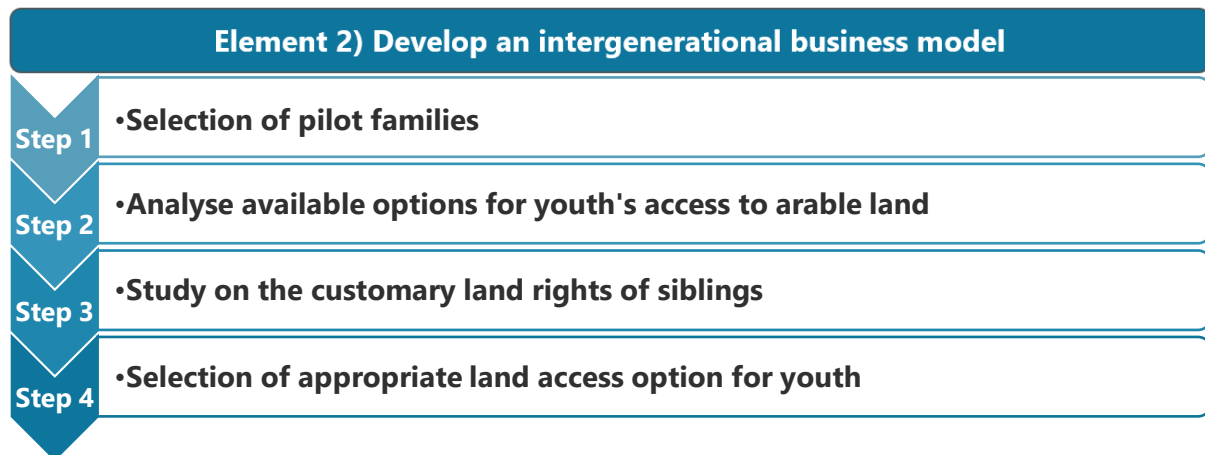
- **Engagement with family units:** Conduct home visits and facilitate small group discussions within families. Disseminate information about crucial topics such as land rights, agricultural potential, production, and business opportunities. Foster open dialogues to address any concerns or misunderstandings within the family unit.
- **Meeting with sub county council:** Collaborate with sub-county authorities, including technical, cultural, and political leaders and institutions, in the targeted implementation areas. Present comprehensive information about general objectives and expected outcomes of the awareness-raising project. Encourage discussions on the council's responsibilities in advancing community livelihoods through enhanced land access.
- **Community meetings:** Arrange inclusive community-wide gatherings at central locations within each community in the designated area of implementation. Conduct interactive sessions fostering active participation, including group discussions, presentations, and question-and-answer segments. Provide practical demonstrations and real-life examples showcasing the significance of land rights, access to customary land, and land titles in these areas.



Figure 1: Local authorities and youth group members discussing the concept

5.2 Element 2: Develop an intergenerational business model

The most obvious solution would be for the youth to be able to use either some or all of the customary land already allocated to the family. This, however, involves a number of issues that need to be taken into account. First of all, there will be a need for the parents to maintain their income, either by being paid the rental or by being involved in the cultivation along with their children. Furthermore, the gender aspect of women's right to land as well as the siblings claim to the family land will have to be accommodated in the model. The required steps are:



5.2.1 Selection of pilot families

Developing selection criteria for selecting pilot families requires a thoughtful and transparent process that considers both the needs of the community and the project goals alike.

- **Management of expectations:** Clearly express the specific objectives, purpose and limitations of the proposed interventions related to access to land, land tenure and land titles towards community leaders, clan leaders, agricultural experts, and cooperatives. Consult them to gain insights into the specific needs and challenges faced by the community regarding land access and agriculture. Incorporate their perspectives in the development of the selection criteria.
- **Develop selection criteria:** Based on the community insights, establish clear and transparent selection criteria. This includes factors such as age, land ownership status, farming experience, household size and composition, income level, willingness to participate and commit to sustainable farming.
- **Conduct on-site visits and interviews:** Prepare a list of potential pilot families. Conduct on-site visits to the applicants' households to gain a comprehensive understanding of their current farming practices, land resources, and overall living conditions. Conduct interviews to further assess their level of commitment and capacity to participate.
- **Ensure diversity and inclusivity:** Strive for diversity and inclusivity in the selection process by considering families from different socio-economic backgrounds and different youth groups. Promote gender equality through a balanced gender ratio and empower women by actively involving them in the project.
- **Select pilot families:** Families are selected based on their alignment with the established selection criteria, their potential for impactful participation, and their commitment to the project objectives. Ensure transparency and communicate the selection results to the community in a clear and respectful manner.

5.2.2 Analyse available options for youth's access to arable land

The youth will often acknowledge that obtaining customary land for agricultural cultivation is very difficult. Their limited ability to lease land and the restrictions imposed by their parents, who often allocate small parcels (less than an acre) or no land at all, exacerbate the challenge.

- **Validation of SWOT analysis:** Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the current challenges faced by the youth in accessing land for commercial agricultural purposes. Analyse the specific limitations in leasing land and the restrictions imposed by parents on the youth's land use. Explore the possibility of establishing long-term contracts with clear terms and conditions for the youth to rent state or community lands, considering the associated limitations and challenges.
- **Introduce an intergenerational business option:** Introduce and discuss the possibility of a formal agreement between the youth and their parents for the rental of family lands³. These should at least be valid for the entire agricultural season, but preferably for a period of 5 years. Facilitate collaboration and profit-sharing arrangements between the youth and their parents, fostering transparency and clear expectations. Present standardized rental agreements⁴ and define the rights and responsibilities of the youth and their parents for utilizing the rented land.

5.2.3 Study on the customary land rights of siblings

When a younger member of the family has been granted the right to use some of the family customary land, this allocation could create feelings of unfairness and unequal opportunities among the recipient's siblings. It is essential to have a transparent decision-making process, for all to agree upon the fairness of the arrangement and to avoid feelings of betrayal, distrust or exclusion. Calculate the average land distribution per family and determine the current state of land usage by the siblings.

- **Analysis of customary laws and inheritance rights:** Examine the unwritten customary laws to understand the traditional framework regarding land possession and inheritance and evaluate the parents' and clan leaders' roles in guiding land use and access for the youth.
- **Food security evaluation:** Assess the food security situation within the pilot families, focusing on the availability and quality of food and explore potential agricultural improvements suggested by the siblings.
- **Evaluation of income sources and investment patterns:** Analyse the income sources of pilot families, including the lease of family land and assess the feasibility of long-term investments on the hired land and its implications on family dynamics.
- **Identify potential for intergenerational conflicts:** arising from the use of family land and suggest conflict resolution mechanisms and preventive measures.
- **Facilitating land rights registration:** Formulate a plan for raising awareness among youth and parents regarding the benefits of land rights registration and coordinate with local authorities and organizations to assist in the land registration process.

³ Template attached as annex 11

⁴ Example attached as annex 9

- **Mitigating risks of land conflicts:** Develop a comprehensive strategy to minimize the risk of conflicts arising from the Nexus youth's use of family land and establish protocols for transparent agreements and consensus-building among family members.

5.2.4 Selection of appropriate land access option for youth

Based on the analysis described above it is time to formulate the intergenerational business models. Depending on the results of the surveys, these can be adapted in various ways. The options are:

- **Model 1: Youth renting land from parents on a strictly commercial basis with no further parental involvement.** In this model, the youth rent the land from the parents on a purely commercial basis, with the rental fee negotiated at the market rate or based on mutual agreement. While, in theory, the youth could rent the land from anyone, the parents make it accessible and ensure its use over an extended duration.
- **Model 2: Youth renting land from parents on a commercial basis with parental involvement:** Similar to Model 1, this model involves the youth renting the land from parents on a commercial basis, but it introduces parental participation. The parents can become employees (Model 2A) or take on various roles (Model 2B) related to production activities. This involvement may extend to other family members, including siblings.

Sub-Model 2A: Parental involvement as employees: In this sub-model, parents work as employees, and the youth compensates them based on their daily contributions. The specific payment arrangements are determined through individual agreements.

Sub-Model 2B: Parental involvement in production management: Under this sub-model, parents engage in managing specific aspects of production and receive compensation at the time of harvest. The details of their roles and compensation are established at the beginning of the season.

- **Model 3: Joint responsibility and profit-sharing between youth and parents:** This model fosters joint involvement in production and the equitable sharing of profits after the harvest. The profit-sharing arrangement can vary from one family to another, such as 50/50, 75/25, 40/60, or even 50/25/25 if three parties are involved. Implementing this model requires robust agreements specifying the distribution of responsibilities and contributions from each party, including land, labour days, cash, administration, post-harvest activities, and marketing efforts.

Adjustment of the initial models

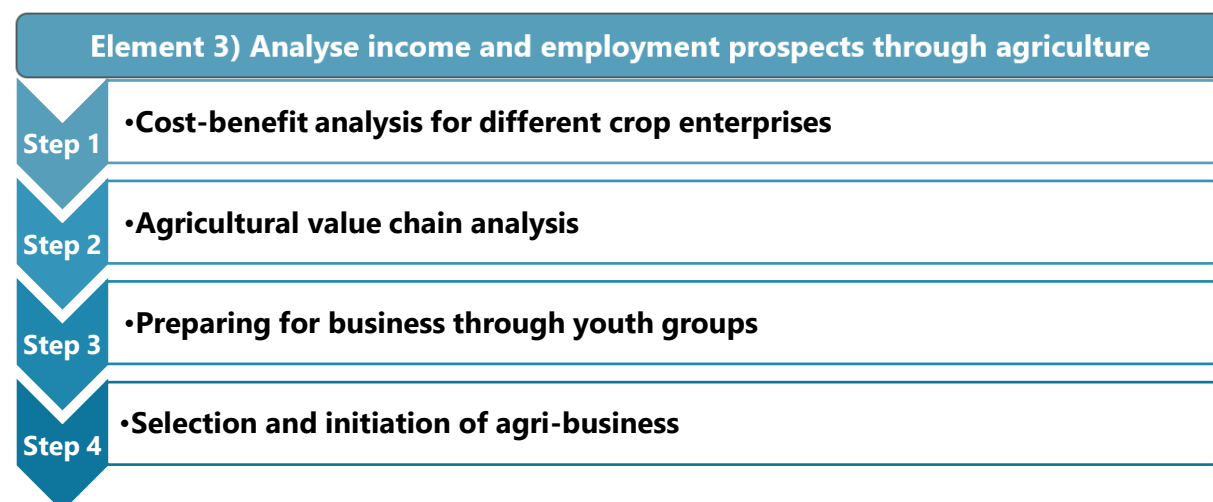
During the validation phase of the Nexus pilot, it became clear that Model 1 was the preferred choice for the pilot families. This model allowed children to access land at a lower cost than the market rate and provided flexibility for parental involvement based on their preferences. Model 1 also facilitated land rental from individuals outside the families. As a result, the remaining models were informally integrated to Model 1 and based on the principles of Model 1. Additionally, the youth groups played a more significant role than expected, particularly in the context of agri-business activities, which were found to be more suitable at both the individual and group levels.



Figure 2: Land preparation by oxen

5.3 Element 3: Income and employment prospects through agriculture

Ultimately the purpose of getting access to land is to be able to generate income from the land by cultivation. The outcome further increases the income generating opportunities as it provides the opportunities to engage in the initial steps of the value chains e.g. by taking on processing, transportation or trade. The required steps are:



5.3.1 Cost-benefit analysis for different crop enterprises

To demonstrate that agriculture is a commercial viable business, a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) should be conducted and discussed with the pilot families. The comprehensive CBA for agricultural production of main crops includes:

- **Identify fixed costs:** Land acquisition or rental costs, land preparation and possible other costs like rent of machinery, irrigation, and labour costs.

- **Determine variable costs:** These included costs for seed and planting material, fertilizer and pesticide expenses, 1st & 2nd tillage, weeding, bird scaring, harvesting and transportation.
- **Calculate benefits:** Determine the total revenue from the expected sale of each crop and per acre and assess the potential for value addition through processing and marketing strategies.
- **Compare costs and benefits:** Calculate the net income for each crop by subtracting the total costs from the total revenue and analyse the Return of Investment (ROI) for each crop to determine profitability. Evaluate the economic viability of each crop based on the net income and ROI.

	Sesame	Sunflower	Soybean	Rice	Maize
Fixed costs					
Land rent	200.000	200.000	200.000	200.000	200.000
Ox ploughing	350.000	350.000	350.000	350.000	350.000
Total fixed costs	550.000	550.000	550.000	550.000	550.000
Variable Costs					
Seed	50.000	72.000	60.000	45.000	40.000
Fertilizer				80.000	45.000
Pesticides	15.000	15.000			
Land clearing	45.000	45.000	45.000	45.000	45.000
1st & 2nd Tillage	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	200.000
Planting	20.000	40.000	20.000	50.000	50.000
Hand Weeding	60.000	30.000	100.000	100.000	30.000
Bird scaring				60.000	
Harvesting	30.000	10.000	30.000	30.000	20.000
Transportation	8.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Deshelling of rice				150.000	
Post Harvest costs (Bags)	6.000	7.000	4.500	22.500	15.000
Total Variable Costs	334.000	329.000	369.500	692.500	455.000
Farm Income					
Yield	300	700	700	975	1.000
Selling Price	5.000	1.400	1.500	2.000	1.200
Total income	1.500.000	980.000	1.050.000	1.950.000	1.200.000
Labour					
Own labour days	5	3	10	15	10
Cost per day	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Cost of own labour	10.000	6.000	20.000	30.000	20.000
Calculation					
Production result	1.166.000	651.000	680.500	1.257.500	745.000
Net result	616.000	101.000	130.500	707.500	195.000
Final result	606.000	95.000	110.500	677.500	175.000

Figure 3: Example of a CBA for different crops.

5.3.2 Agricultural value chain analysis

For the groups, or individual farmers, to engage in agri-business, it is important to get a good understanding of the different stages of the value chains (VC) and thereby recognize where the most realistic business opportunities are. The business can be related to trade within the VC, but it could also include taking over certain steps of the VC, e.g. storage, transportation or processing. Conducting a value chain analysis of the most common crops includes:



Figure 4: Sunflower field

- **Stakeholder mapping and data collection:** Identify key stakeholders, including small-scale traders, local farmers, owners of commercial building, wholesalers, processors, and retailers involved in the value chain. Create a comprehensive stakeholder map, outlining the roles and relationships of each participant within the maize and sunflower value chains. Conduct interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions to understand the perspectives, challenges, and requirements of each stakeholder at various stages of the value chain. Gather existing data on the production, trading, and processing. The data should include as many details as possible regarding volume, need for labour force and or machinery, costs, income, and related problems.
- **Value chain mapping and analysis:** Map all crops from the local farms to the final consumers in big towns, e.g. the regional hub or Kampala. Analyse the transportation routes, storage facilities, and trading patterns involved in the movement of the harvested crops and identify the constraints, bottlenecks, and inefficiencies within the value chain that affect the quality, quantity, and price of e.g. maize and sunflower products.

- **Value addition and processing analysis:** Examine the value addition processes, including oil extraction, milling, and other forms of processing for maize, sunflower, and others. Assess the technologies, machinery, and infrastructure used by processors to add value to the raw commodities and evaluate the market demand for value-added products, such as cooking oil, sesame paste, and other processed goods derived from maize and sunflower.
- **Market dynamics and price analysis:** Analyse the pricing mechanisms at each stage of the value chain, from the initial purchase by local traders to the final sale to retailers and consumers and assess the impact of market fluctuations, seasonality, and external factors on the pricing of maize and sunflower products. Point of departure can be the price quoted in the CBA, but the essence of this analysis is focussed on the fluctuation in the value of the commodities after they have left the farm. Also investigate the factors influencing price differentials between various locations and markets in the major towns.



Figure 5: Harvested maize ready for transportation

- **Climate change predictions and need for adaptation practices:** As smallholder farmers are highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture, this makes them vulnerable to climate change impacts such as erratic rainfall, droughts, floods, and temperature extremes. Understanding these vulnerabilities is crucial for effective climate change adaptation. Analyse options for crop diversity, market strategies, value addition, technology adaptation and risk mitigation associated with climate variability.

5.3.3 Preparing for business through youth groups

During the pilot validation of the intergenerational business model, the assessment indicated that the youth groups could play a stronger role in developing the agri-business opportunities. While the assessment in step 5.1.3 focussed on access to land and production, this assessment of the group's capacity is focussed on their potential to engage in agri-business. If the groups are interested in getting involved in agribusiness opportunities, it might be necessary to expand the business models to include the youth groups. The overall assessment is that youth groups are well-suited for these kind of activities.

- **Assess financial management practices:** Evaluate the financial management practices of the youth groups, including their record-keeping, budget management, and transparency in financial transactions. Ensure that they demonstrate responsible financial practices and have a clear understanding of resource allocation for agricultural activities.
- **Business planning and management:** Request youth groups to submit detailed proposals and business plans outlining their farming objectives, strategies, budgetary requirements, and expected outcomes. Review these documents to assess the feasibility, innovativeness, and sustainability of their agricultural initiatives. Evaluate the business plans and identify the possible gaps. Facilitate follow-up meetings to inform the groups about essential elements like market analysis, financial support options, and group fund management. Then assess the need for training in financial literacy, including budgeting, bookkeeping, and administration. Inform the groups about the importance of maintaining proper records and transparent financial transactions within the group.

- **Improving agricultural practices:** Support farming system analysis to advise on the most promising combinations of crops. Facilitate access to improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides through partnerships with reputable suppliers, enhancing adaptive capacities to climate change and the agricultural productivity of the groups. Assess the need for training on modern farming and water management techniques, sustainable agriculture practices, and the benefits of using high-quality seeds and fertilizers to improve crop yield.
- **Market coordination and negotiation:** Inform the groups about the benefits of bulk selling and storage to negotiate better prices in the market. Establish a collective storage facility for the groups to store their harvests, enabling them to wait for opportune moments to sell at higher prices and offer training in effective negotiation skills to ensure the groups can secure favourable deals with potential buyers or cooperatives.
- **Logistics and transportation:** Assist the groups in exploring the transportation business by coordinating the transportation of their produce to the market and provide guidance on the logistical aspects of transportation, including route planning, cost-effective methods, and efficient handling of perishable goods.

5.3.4 Selection and initiation of agri-business

Selecting the best business opportunity depends on various factors including individual skills, resources, market demands, and the local economic environment. Considering the context, the youth groups should consider the most suitable business opportunities based on the following:

- **Identify personal strengths and interests:** Encourage the youth to reflect on their skills, knowledge, and interests. Understanding what they are good at can help them choose a business that aligns with their capabilities.
- **Evaluate resources:** Assess the resources available. This includes financial capital, land, equipment, and access to technology. They should consider whether they have the necessary resources or if they can access them through family or group arrangements.
- **Assess market demand:** Based on the findings from 5.3.2 (Value Chain Analysis) the groups should investigate the market conditions and look for gaps that offer business opportunities and identify which products have a stable demand and are profitable.
- **Analyse business arrangement options:** Understand the pros and cons of each business arrangement option - individual, family-based, or group business. Consider factors such as risk-sharing, collective decision-making, and resource pooling.
- **Risk assessment and management:** Analyse the risks associated with each business opportunity and develop strategies to manage and mitigate them. This might include risks such as market volatility, weather-related risks, or transportation challenges.

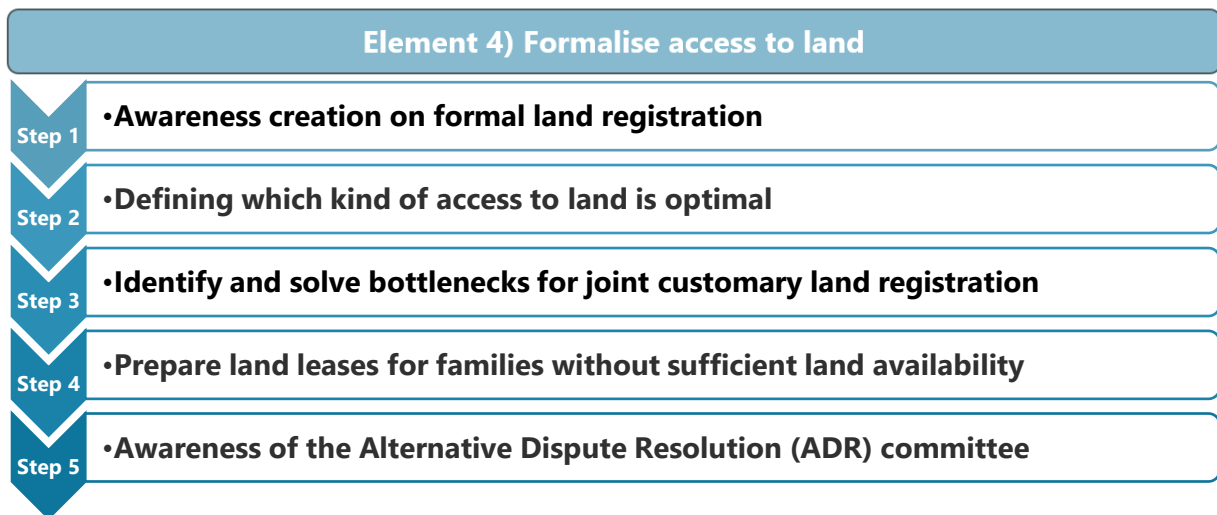


Figure 6: Discussion about the family business opportunities

- **Consider value addition opportunities:** Evaluate the various stages of the supply chain, from input supply to the final sale to consumers. Given the flow of agricultural commodities, look for areas where value addition can be achieved. Facilitate discussions on value addition through activities such as processing, packaging, and branding to increase the market value of the produce of the groups. Provide guidance on the feasibility of acquiring a milling machine for the processing of grains, which could serve as an additional source of income for the groups. Assess which stage has the most potential for profit and growth, considering the specific strengths and resources available. This might involve setting up processing units for producing cooking oil, sesame paste, or other value-added products.
- **Network building:** Encourage the youth to build strong networks within the industry. This can help them stay updated with market trends, access new opportunities, and gain valuable insights from experienced individuals.

5.4 Element 4: Formalise access to land

There are two primary options for obtaining land access: either by using family customary land or by leasing land under commercial terms from neighbouring farmers. Before they can choose, a certain level of information is needed and after the choice, follow-up assistance is required. The important steps are:



5.4.1 Awareness creation on formal land registration

Creating awareness among young farmers about the benefits of registering their families' customary land and obtaining land documents in Uganda will significantly contribute to securing their land rights and fostering long-term agricultural development:

Informing communities: Organize informative meetings in the villages. Collaborate with local authorities, NGOs, and agricultural organizations to talk about the importance of securing land rights through registration. Share success stories of young farmers who have experienced the benefits of having registered land certificates. Highlight how land certificates have facilitated access to credit, increased land value, and provided security, encouraging others to follow suit. The following topics should be discussed:

- **Legal recognition and security of tenure:** Registration provides legal recognition to customary land, offering protection against potential disputes and encroachments. Land registration can enhance the security of tenure for landholders, reducing the risk of land disputes and the potential for land grabbing.
- **Access to credit and financial services:** Registered land can serve as collateral for loans, making it easier for landowners to access credit and financial services for agricultural investments and development. It helps to establish clear ownership, which is crucial for property transactions.
- **Land planning and management:** Registration allows for better land planning and management, contributing to sustainable agricultural practices and environmental conservation.
- **Access to government programs:** Registered landowners may have better access to government agricultural support programs, subsidies, and extension services, contributing to improved agricultural productivity.
- **Empowerment of women:** Land registration can contribute to gender equality by ensuring that women and vulnerable groups have recognized and secured land rights, promoting inclusivity in agricultural development.
- **Reduced conflicts:** Clarifying customary land ownership through registration can reduce conflicts within communities.
- **Willingness to contribute to the provision of land services** in the context of fee-based demarcation and documentation of customary land.

5.4.2 Defining which kind of access to land is optimal

Each individual farmer needs to choose which kind of land access she or he will choose. Evaluate the most suitable land access approach for each family unit, considering either family customary land or leasing land under commercial terms, either within the family, from neighbouring farmers or other landholders in the vicinity. The following should be considered:

- **For land acquired through family customary practices,** formal documentation becomes imperative. This entails a rental agreement and, ideally, official registration of the land in the names of both parents and the child, who is the designated user of the land.
- **In the case of leasing land,** a comprehensive contract is essential. This contract should cover key aspects, including the names of the parties involved, the size, location and characteristics of the land, the agreed-upon price, payment terms, duration of the lease, and provisions for termination.
- **The business model:** The desired degree of involvement of parents or siblings will influence the preferred model and eventually also the content of the lease contract.
- **Legal assistance and support:** Provide legal aid and support services to assist young farmers in understanding the registration process. Offer guidance on the legal procedures, documentation requirements, and the potential implications of owning a registered land title. Advocate for simplified procedures, reduced costs, and accessible information centres to encourage more young farmers to register their land.

5.4.3 Identify and solve bottlenecks for joint customary land registration

Identifying the hurdles for young farmers in getting their land registered, especially in the context of joint customary land registration, involves understanding the challenges they're facing within their communities and the existing legal framework:

- **Legal assessment:** Consult the legal analysis conducted under 5.1.1 regarding the legal framework and land registration procedures. Identify any existing complex or ambiguous legal requirements that may impede the registration process, particularly in the case of joint customary land registration.
- **Understanding the concerns:** Engage with young farmers through surveys and interviews to gather insights into their perceptions and concerns regarding land registration. Understand the apprehensions, experiences, and the challenges they are confronted with throughout the registration process. Encourage open dialogue to identify cultural, social, and economic factors affecting their decision-making.
- **Financial assessment:** Evaluate the financial implications of land registration for young farmers. Analyse the costs associated with the registration process, including administrative fees, legal expenses, and potential transaction costs, and assess how these financial burdens affect their willingness to register their land.
- **Risk perception analysis:** Explore the reasons behind the reluctance to use registered land as collateral. Understand the farmers' perceptions of the risks associated with using their land as collateral for accessing finance. Identify the specific concerns that contribute to their reluctance and assess the underlying factors that shape their risk perceptions.
- **Financial institution engagement:** Collaborate with financial institutions and banks to understand their criteria for accepting land as collateral. Identify any specific challenges or requirements that hinder the acceptance of registered land as collateral and discuss potential solutions to address these concerns.

5.4.4 Prepare land leases for families without sufficient land availability

Preparing a land lease agreement for agricultural purposes involves legal and practical aspects to be considered, to ensure the rights and responsibilities of both parties are clearly defined:

- **Lease period:** Ensure that land lease agreements can be established for a minimum period of five years to guarantee the preservation of land fertility and encourage investments. Moreover, enable the option for rent payment on an annual basis, departing from the customary practice of paying for the entire lease duration at once. Define the specific annual rent amount and payment method, including provisions for rent adjustments based on inflation or market prices, subject to mutual agreement.
- **Specify the conditions for extension or termination:** Clearly outline the circumstances allowing for the extension or termination of the agreement and clarify any conditions applicable in such cases.
- **Establish clear rights and restrictions:** Define the tenant's rights, including the ability to install movable equipment, such as irrigation systems, while highlighting prohibitions on subleasing or selling the land without the landlord's prior consent.

- **Detail land ownership and access rights:** Emphasize the landlord's retention of land ownership while conferring the rights of use to the tenant during the lease period. Clearly establish the landlord's access rights for inspection and verification purposes.
- **Define mechanisms for dispute resolution:** Incorporate a transparent process for resolving any disputes or conflicts that may arise during the lease term, specifying the role of the community leader as the initial mediator. It is recommended that a long-term rent agreement is not only supervised and endorsed but also co-signed by the clan leader to ensure that no inexplicable changes to the rental agreement will be made.

5.4.5 Awareness of the Alternative Dispute Resolution committee

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) committee at the community level can assist with specific land disputes, which could arise from land leases. Hence, there is a need for farming community members to know about the existence and function of the ADR committee and if needed offer training to the ADR committee, so they can improve their services.

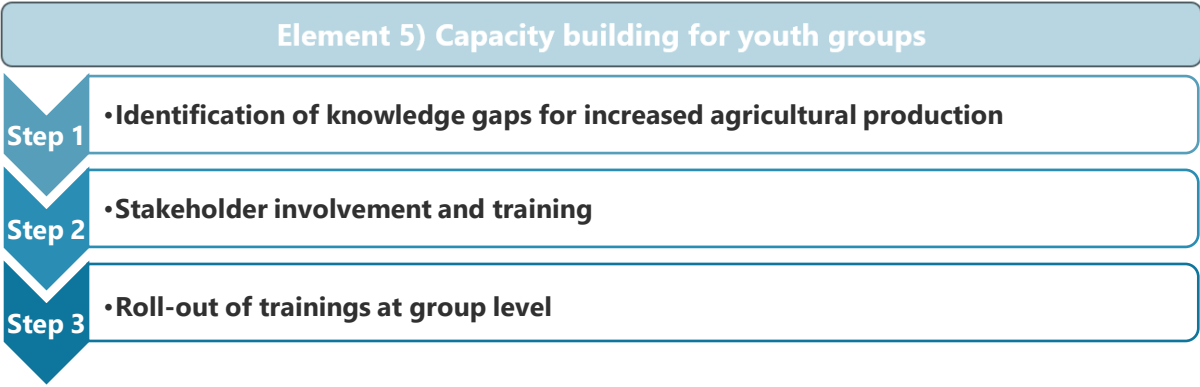
- **Promote community awareness:** Launch a community-wide awareness campaign to promote the role and functions of the ADR committee in resolving disputes and fostering peaceful coexistence. Conduct information events, public forums, and outreach programs to educate community members about the availability and benefits of the ADR mechanism.
- **Training needs assessment:** Conduct a thorough training needs assessment of the ADR committee, to identify the specific areas of conflict resolution and mediation that require attention. Tailor the training program to address the unique challenges of conflict resolution in the local context.
- **Conduct ADR committee training:** Organize a comprehensive training program for the ADR committee members, focusing on conflict resolution techniques, mediation skills, communication strategies, and the application of relevant legal frameworks. Incorporate case studies and practical scenarios to enhance the members' understanding of real-life conflict situations and their resolution.
- **Foster collaboration and coordination:** Encourage active collaboration and coordination among the ADR committee members, emphasizing the importance of working together to address conflicts and promote community harmony. Facilitate team-building exercises and interactive workshops to strengthen cohesion in the committee and collective problem-solving abilities.
- **Ensure sustainability and continual support:** Secure long-term support and resources for the ADR committee to ensure its sustainability and continued operation within the community. Foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, CSOs and development agencies to strengthen the committee's capacity and impact.



Figure 7: ADR Committee

5.5 Element 5: Capacity building for youth groups

If productivity is very low, which is the case in most of Uganda, training should be offered in basic agronomic skills, incl. selection of varieties, soil preparation, natural soil fertility, planting time, plant distance, application of fertiliser, knowledge of pests and diseases, pollination, harvest, and post-harvest techniques. The training should be as practical as possible, but if full-season training is not possible, it should be approx. 1-2 weeks of training at the village where the farmers live, and it should be organised with respect to women's daily routine tasks. In addition to the basic agronomic practices, it is recommended to consider CSA. By incorporating CSA, agricultural production that ensures risk reduction and increased or maintained yield generation is promoted. The steps towards achieving these goals are:



5.5.1 Identification of knowledge gaps for increased agricultural production

To identify knowledge gaps among young farmers, a systematic approach incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods would be beneficial. Engage directly with the young farmers through interviews and surveys to understand their farming practices.

- **Organize focus group discussions (FGDs):** Form discussion groups of young farmers to encourage open dialogue about their experiences, challenges, and the kind of support that they believe they need. FGDs can provide insights into the common problems faced by the farmers and can help identify specific knowledge gaps.

5.5.2 Stakeholder involvement and training

- **Education and training programs:** Design the training programs which should focus on sustainable agricultural practices, emphasizing the importance of soil fertility, crop rotation, and organic matter accumulation. Provide training on the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and insect control methods.
- **Improved seed distribution and access to tools:** Work with local authorities and organizations to ensure timely and efficient availability of quality seeds and necessary tools for field preparation. Facilitate access to improved seeds, especially hybrid varieties that are known for their high productivity.
- **Demonstration farms:** Set up demonstration farms and/or farmer field schools where best practices can be highlighted. Encourage young farmers to participate in practical training sessions to learn about modern farming techniques, crop management, and effective pest control.
- **Promotion of climate-resilient farming practices:** Educate farmers about the importance of CSA practices, including water conservation, use of drought-resistant crops, and implementation of measures to mitigate the impact of extreme weather conditions.
- **Partnerships with agricultural experts and extension services:** Collaborate with agricultural experts and extension services to provide technical assistance, advisory services, and on-site consultations. These professionals can offer guidance on optimizing farming practices and addressing specific challenges faced by the young farmers.
- **Promotion of cooperative farming and knowledge exchange:** Encourage the formation of cooperative farming groups where knowledge and experiences can be shared among the members. Facilitate regular meetings and workshops where successful farmers can mentor and guide others in implementing improved cultivation practices.
- **Access to financial support and microcredits:** Facilitate access to financial support and microcredit schemes that can enable young farmers to invest in quality inputs, tools, and technologies for improved agricultural productivity.

5.5.3 Roll-out of trainings at group level

As the business elements turned out to be more suitable for youth groups compared to family businesses, the groups were trained in financial literacy and business preparedness:

- **Assess training needs:** Start by conducting a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the specific requirements and skill levels of the youth group members. This will help to tailor the training content according to their current needs.
- **Develop a curriculum:** Design a detailed training curriculum that covers all the essential topics such as financial literacy, business preparedness, business planning, market analysis, margin calculations, group dynamics, leadership, constitutions, and fund management. Ensure the curriculum is well structured and easy to follow.
- **Identify qualified trainers:** Find experienced professionals, educators, or mentors with expertise in financial literacy, business management, and group dynamics. Possibly make use of trainers from already on-going projects. They should be able to effectively communicate complex concepts and engage with the young participant group.
- **Select an appropriate venue:** Choose a suitable training venue that can accommodate the group size and is equipped with the necessary facilities such as audio-visual equipment, seating arrangements, and amenities for refreshments.
- **Create a training schedule:** Develop a well-structured training schedule that outlines the specific topics to be covered, along with designated time slots for each session. Ensure the schedule includes interactive tasks, group discussions, and practical exercises.
- **Facilitate hands-on learning:** Incorporate practical exercises, case studies, and real-life examples into the training sessions to help participants apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios. Encourage group activities and role-playing exercises to promote active learning.
- **Provide continuous support:** Establish a system for ongoing mentorship and support after the training program concludes. Create a platform for participants to seek guidance, ask questions, and receive feedback on their business plans and financial management strategies.



Figure 8: Awareness raising meeting

6 Envisaged impacts

The initial test of the land access securing pilot model has demonstrated its validity. In future applications, it is anticipated that young farmers will be able to obtain access to agricultural land, either through their family rights to customary land or by leasing land commercially.

The increased availability of land and the promotion of fair and just land-hiring agreements are playing a pivotal role in fostering social cohesion and community development within the region. These efforts may lead to improvements in relationships among community members and a reduction in conflicts arising from land tenure and access disputes. By ensuring that land is fairly and equitably distributed among community members, these initiatives will contribute to the overall development and well-being of the community.

Equipping youth with improved agricultural skills not only leads to higher crop yields but also encourages the adoption of modern farming techniques and sustainable agricultural practices. By embracing modern technologies and innovative farming methods, such as efficient irrigation systems, organic farming practices, and integrated pest management, youth may optimize their agricultural productivity while minimizing environmental impact. This shift toward sustainable and efficient farming may contribute to the long-term preservation of natural resources and the environment, ensuring the sustainability of agricultural activities for future generations.

Increased awareness of the commercial aspects of agriculture and improved understanding of land-hiring agreements will encourage youth to make informed decisions regarding their farming practices, investments, and land management strategies. The adoption of a commercial approach, where farming activities may generate sufficient income to cover land rent on commercial terms, has opened up opportunities for the youth to become more directly involved in agriculture.

One of the primary indicators of an emerging agribusiness sector is the emphasis placed on essential components such as storage, processing, and transportation. The establishment of efficient storage facilities has allowed young farmers and group-led businesses to preserve their produce effectively, thereby reducing post-harvest losses and ensuring a steady supply of goods in the market. Moreover, the introduction of processing units can add value to agricultural products, consequently expanding market opportunities and enhancing the overall economic viability of the agricultural sector in the region.

7 Replicability

The model serves as a solid basis for creating and reproducing comparable interventions in similar contexts. In the validation phase, it is acknowledged that adjustments may be required to align with local requirements or address specific needs. The model's notable flexibility allows modifications, amendments, deletions, or reformulations to better suit the unique aspects of different settings.

It's essential to highlight that the model recognizes the potential for youth groups to play a more substantial role, especially in agri-business activities. Consequently, there is a recognition of the need to prioritize and amplify the involvement of youth groups in cases where agri-business activities are a focal point. This emphasis on youth participation underscores the adaptability of the model to diverse circumstances and its responsiveness to the nature of interventions in similar contexts.

8 References

Relevant documents	Relevant institutions
Constitution of Uganda	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Article 32(2) of the 1995 Constitution	Ministry of Gender, Labour and social Development
Land Acquisition Act 1965	Ministry of Local Government
Land Act of 1998	National Youth Council
Land Amendment Act of 2010	Uganda Land Commission
National Land Policy 2013	District Local Government
<i>RELAPU Project document</i>	Cultural (Clan) Leaders

9 Annexes

- Annex 1 Youth access to land, Scoping report
- Annex 2 Land access options
- Annex 3 Follow-up scoping report
- Annex 4 Selection criteria for pilot families
- Annex 5 Cost-benefit analysis for crop production
- Annex 6 Intergenerational Business model
- Annex 7 Gender assessment report
- Annex 8 Siblings Customary land rights
- Annex 9 Template for land-hire agreement
- Annex 10 SWOT analysis for youth groups
- Annex 11 Examples of one year land hire agreement