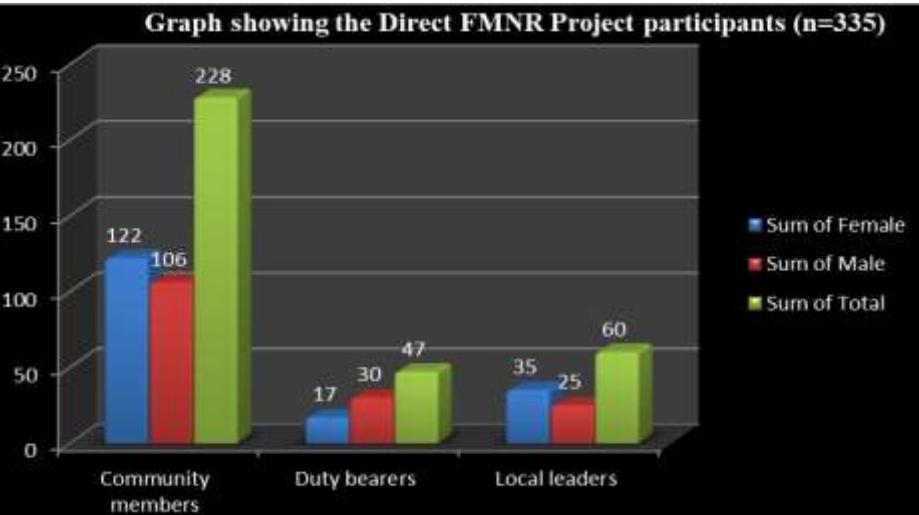


Date	AUGUST 2025
Author	UGANDA CHANGE AGENT ASSOCIATION
Project/ Programmatic Cooperation	FARMER MANAGED NATURAL REGENERATION (FMNR)
Organization	UGANDDA CHANGE AGENT ASSOCIATION (UCAA)
District of implementation	NAPAK DISTRICT (LORENGECORA SUB COUNTY)
Project No.	
Period covered	October 2024 – August 2025
Executive Summary	
<p>The UCAA FMNR project in Lorengecora Sub-county, Napak District, targeted 200 households across Cholichol, Lobok, and Kochito villages to enhance sustainable livelihoods, food security, and climate resilience through land restoration and community empowerment. Key activities included FMNR training, establishment of 6 acres of demonstration sites, agroforestry with fruit trees and Super Napier grass, conservation agriculture, energy-efficient stoves, and alternative livelihoods such as poultry and green grams. In addition, 60 local leaders developed and implemented bylaws to ensure long-term governance and community ownership of natural resources.</p> <p>The project directly engaged approximately 335 participants (community members, local leaders, and district stakeholders) and indirectly benefited approximately 1,675 community members. The project also witnessed an immediate impact in 1,040 individual through the support from distributed livelihood items of vegetable seeds, birds and green gram, where food production and income generation has improve across all the project beneficiaries' households. Additionally other short/ long term impacts and Outcomes included improved soil fertility, diversified household income, enhanced food and nutrition security, reduced firewood dependency, and strengthened climate resilience. By integrating FMNR, sustainable agriculture, and clean energy technologies, the project has created a replicable model for environmental restoration and socio-economic development in Karamoja communities.</p>	

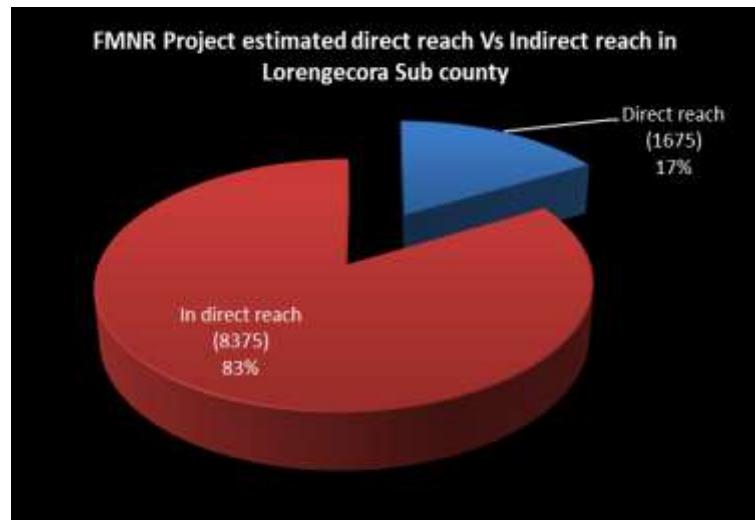
Project total reach

Direct Reach



Note: Estimated FMNR Project direct reach: 335 participants * 5 estimated HH size =1,675 individuals

Estimated Direct reach Vs. Indirect reach



FMNR Project reach is approximately 8,375 individuals in Lorengechora Sub county

Note: Direct beneficiaries were the same across activities. Duty bearers (n=47) and local leaders (n=60) were unique individuals. Indirect beneficiaries are estimated contacts (n=5) of the direct beneficiaries both in the community and schools.

Indirect reach

1,675 direct reach*5 estimated community contact=8,375

FMNR Immediately impacted population: 1,040 individuals

208 direct beneficiary households, Using the household multiplier (5 members per household):
 $208 \times 5 = 1,040$ people

Immediate population impact (from inputs distributed): The distribution of seeds for conservation agriculture, vegetables/green gram, and poultry directly improved the livelihoods of about 208 households, translating to approximately 1,040 individuals in Lorengecora Sub-county.

Introduction

The Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) project was implemented in Lorengecora sub-county, Napak District, in the semi-arid Karamoja region of Uganda, where prolonged droughts, high poverty (74.2%), and food insecurity (80%) challenge livelihoods (UBOS, 2023). The district also experiences high rates of unsafe out-migration of children and environmental degradation from charcoal burning and overgrazing, compounded by insecurity from cattle rustling.

Implemented as a one-year pilot from October 2024 to August 2025, the FMNR project targeted 200 households, small-farmer groups, pastoralists, and backyard agro-forestry practitioners. Activities engaged local leaders, VSLA groups, Child Rights Environmental Clubs, and FAL youth groups. The project aimed to improve food security, enhance climate resilience, and restore degraded landscapes by increasing tree cover and promoting climate-smart agricultural practices.

During the project period, seasonal variations and security challenges affected farming, though rains in July enabled healthy crop growth and early harvests. Food security remains tied to garden production, with reduced reliance on hunting and continued use of charcoal and firewood sales. The project's objectives were to ensure adoption of FMNR methods and to expand land under tree cover through restoration, agro-forestry, and gender-responsive by-laws. This report outlines the activities, achievements, and changes observed in Lorengecora during the project period.

2. Progress of activity implementation during the pilot year

Outcome 1. Increased knowledge of sustainable livelihood practices by 20 percent among 200 households of farmer groups in target villages in Lorengachora sub-county.

1.1.1: Two community mobilization meetings, sensitization and awareness of FMNR and its benefits at district and sub-county level for local leaders

In September 2024, UCAA conducted inception meetings at Lorengecora Sub-county and Napak District Headquarters with the participation of district officials and local leaders. A total of 47 stakeholders (17 female and 30 male) attended the meetings.

The sessions provided a platform for sensitization and awareness creation on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and its benefits. Through open dialogue, leaders facilitated mindset change, fostered community engagement, and contributed to planning for an enabling environment to ensure successful project implementation. As a result, practical strategies were jointly developed and endorsed by district officials, aligning FMNR interventions with the government's Parish Development Model. This has strengthened local structures to enhance food security, built household climate resilience, and support diversified livelihoods. Ultimately, the process has laid a foundation for improving the socio-economic and environmental well-being of communities in Lorengecora Sub-county.



Above photos show the duty bearers during the inception meetings for FMNR in September 2024 and on the left is Akongo Lilly GBV Officer explaining the FMNR Concepts and the photo was taken by Julius Imuko

1.1.2: The report on the 14 community led negotiation meetings to create land access for conservation of communal land in Lorengecora sub-county.

On 4th November 2024 UCAA conducted community meetings and 225 community members (100 Male, and 125 Female) were reached that included the youth, women, men and the leaders (religious, opinion leaders and local council) in the villages of Lobok, Kochito and Cholichol.

The community meetings set a mindset change that embraced the FMNR project in their community and they went ahead to successfully allocate land for the demonstration sites within the villages of Cholichol, Lobok and Kochito villages giving us a total of 6 acres of land (2 acres per each). The demonstration sites were used for knowledge sharing on FMNR project, the sites were well protected or governed by the established committee that developed by-laws to manage and protect the sites.

The community member's mindset change towards economic, social and environmental benefits were well understood by all community member's leading to a successful implementation of FMNR diversifying effects that has enhance resilience to climate change.



The above photo shows Longoli Achilla an elders giving opening remarks during community led negotiation meetings at Lobok village, November 2024. And below the program officer briefing the community about the FMNR project during community led negotiation meetings at Kochito village November /2024



1.2.1. FMNR training of 60 local leaders, communities and follow-up structures established

60(35, 25 M) local leaders were mobilized and trained in two different points at Cholichol and Kochito villages holding the FMNR demonstration sites. The participants were taken through the 3 principles of FMNR: *Use existing resources, Prune and Thin, Engage the community*. Benefits of FMNR: Improves soil fertility, Wind breaks, increased firewood, and climate change mitigation.

Action Points were documented for follow up: Selection of leadership for the two different sites, Sensitization of community members to adopt the FMNR approach, and every participant was to monitor three trees at his garden or household farm while they were learning and participating in the FMNR approach.

1.2.2. Engage 60 local leaders (clan, kraal, LCs, groups) to have user rights to implement and create local ownership of FMNR

UCAA engaged 60 local leaders (35 female and 25 male), including clan leaders, kraal leaders, local councils, and group representatives from Lobok, Kochito, and Cholichol villages in Lorengecora Sub-county. These leaders were oriented on the modalities and strategic governance aspects of implementing FMNR at the village demonstration sites.

Through their involvement, the leaders took an active role in promoting FMNR and raising community awareness on its diversification benefits for climate resilience and improved livelihoods. Importantly, land-use rights discussions fostered harmony between grazing communities, crop farmers, and other stakeholders. Clear rules and by-laws were collectively agreed upon, ensuring the protection, management, and sustainable utilization of FMNR sites.

This process not only strengthened local ownership but also created an enabling governance framework that supports long-term conservation and sustainable land management in the community.

1.3.1 Mobilize and sensitize 14 VSLA groups (of men/women), 2 child Rights Environmental clubs 2 schools and 2 FAL youth groups, to establish FMNR activities for practice and knowledge for land restoration and other benefits

In November 2024, UCAA conducted trainings and sensitization sessions in Lorengecora Sub-county targeting different community groups. A total of 200 participants (123 female and 77 male) were reached, including members of 14 VSLA groups, two Child Rights Environmental Clubs (Cholichol and Kokipurat Primary Schools), and two Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) youth groups.

The trainings created mindset change and built practical knowledge on Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR). This enabled the smooth establishment of demonstration sites and encouraged individual adoption of FMNR practices, such as pruning indigenous trees on private land. Community members further spread awareness on environmental conservation, contributing to reduced land degradation.

The adoption of FMNR practices has yielded multiple benefits: improved access to fodder and pasture, use of indigenous trees for herbal medicine, availability of pruned branches for firewood and charcoal, and enhanced soil fertility through organic matter. These outcomes have boosted household livelihoods by increasing crop yields and creating new business opportunities from tree-based products. Importantly, the improved economic opportunities have also contributed to reducing unsafe out-migration of youth seeking better livelihoods outside Napak District.



Above photo on the left is the parish chief and the LC I of Cholchol parish addressing the groups on FMNR adaptation November, 2024. And below Julius Imuko briefing the Child rights club at Cholichol Primary School on FMNR.



1.3.2. Initiate FMNR (for 18 groups above) Step 1: Survey land for sprouting stumps and identify what species are present

A total of 80 participants (36 male and 44 female) from the 18 targeted groups conducted land surveys across three FMNR demonstration sites in Cholichol, Kochito, and Lobok villages, covering a total of six acres (two acres per site). The survey exercise focused on identifying sprouting stumps and documenting the indigenous tree species present for natural regeneration.

This process enhanced governance and management of the demonstration sites by clearly demarcating boundaries, which improved site protection and reduced conflicts. In addition, it supported controlled grazing, minimized bush burning, and strengthened harmony with

surrounding communities. The identification of indigenous species provided a knowledge base for guiding regeneration practices and ensuring biodiversity conservation at the sites.

As a result, the demonstration sites are now well-structured, community-owned, and better protected, providing a practical foundation for sustainable land restoration and improved climate resilience in Lorengecora Sub-county.



Above photos show the members during the survey and tree species identification

1.3.3 Implement FMNR Step 2: Select the species and stumps to be regenerated

In step 2, the 13 indigenous tree species were identified and documented, together with their Native names, prioritized for FMNR and their benefits.

Indigenous tree species identified in the link below

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-RaPADTIDSIQ0AvJjG292OxnpOo15nUx/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112477285067228762161&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Outcome 2. Increased area of land managed with restoration methods including FMNR and backyard agro-forestry activities.

2.1.1. Train small farmer groups, Child right clubs and pastoralists (men and women) to adapt FMNR and green agricultural practices for land restoration FMNR

UCAA trained 208 participants (111 female and 97 male) from small farmer groups, Child Rights Clubs, and pastoralist communities on the adoption of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and green agricultural practices.

Through the training, participants gained practical knowledge on how FMNR restores land

fertility, controls soil erosion, and provides multiple ecosystem benefits. Trees regenerated under FMNR are now serving as windbreakers, sources of fodder and pasture for livestock, and firewood through pruning all of which have improved productivity and reduced household conflicts over natural resources.

As a result, households have reported increased milk and meat production, improved access to firewood (reducing the burden on women and girls moving long distances), and strengthened food and nutrition security through cultivation of vegetables, beans, and cassava. Furthermore, FMNR practices have enhanced soil moisture retention, supporting higher crop yields and contributing to household income, resilience, and harmony within the community.



Above photos show the caretakers that are practicing FMNR and green agriculture for land restoration approach. Taken by Akongo Lilly, UCAA staff

Step 3: For each stump, they select three to five stems to keep and prune away as the unwanted stems.

A total of 60 members (33 male and 27 female) participated in the selective pruning exercise at the FMNR demonstration sites. For each stump, participants identified and maintained three to five strong stems while pruning away the unwanted ones.

The process has contributed to healthier tree growth by reducing competition among stems and allowing the retained branches to develop fully. The pruned material has been put to productive use as firewood, fodder/pasture, and herbal medicine, thereby reducing household resource conflicts. Additionally, the improved tree cover has enriched soil organic matter, supporting better crop yields and land restoration efforts.



The above photos show the members of the FMNR committee during the pruning exercise at the demonstration sites from 17th – 18th March, 2025.

2.1.2. The participating farmers and community are supported through these FMNR stages:

UCAA supported FMNR demonstration site committee members with essential tools including gumboots, slashes, pangas, and hoes, to facilitate pruning exercises and ensure safety during implementation of the seven FMNR steps.

The provision of tools enabled the groups to carry out activities more efficiently; It minimized conflicts that previously arose from borrowing or misplacing tools, thereby fostering cooperation and stronger relationships among community members.



The photo on the left is the LC 1 chairperson of the village in a yellow T-shirt handed over the farm tools to the committee members as other community members look on in appreciation. Taken by Lilly Akongo.

Step 4: For each remaining stem, they prune side-branches up to half-way up the trunk.

The communities members that included the school pupils acquired the skills and the knowledge on proper methods of pruning and they put it into use, within their farms and at homestead to protect the indigenous trees and the skill has been adopted by other members within the community, therefore they have acted as the ambassadors of FMNR approach to create climate resilience within Lorengecora sub county. The

pruned tree have created environmental benefits like wind breakers, prevented soil erosion by holding the soil firm together, provided firewood so that the children do not have to move long distances looking for firewood, they will also go to school on time and concentrate.

Community members, including school pupils, were trained and acquired practical skills on proper pruning techniques specifically removing side-branches up to halfway along the trunk of the remaining stems. These skills were applied both at the FMNR demonstration sites and within individual farms, leading to wider adoption of FMNR practices across households.

The trained participants have become ambassadors of the FMNR approach, promoting climate resilience in Lorengecora Sub-county. The pruned trees now healthier than before are acting as windbreakers, preventing soil erosion by strengthening soil structure, and supplying firewood. This has reduced the need for children to travel long distances in search of fuel, enabling them to attend school regularly and concentrate on their studies. Through this process, FMNR has not only contributed to land restoration but also to improved education outcomes, household resilience, and stronger community ownership of sustainable natural resource management.



The photos above show on the left a group member demonstrating the pruning process in Cholichol village and on the left are pupils of the child rights environmental club doing a demonstration of the pruning process at Cholichol primary school February 2025

Step 5: Protect the stems while they are growing

A total of 208 community members (97 male and 111 female) in Lorengecora Sub-county, empowered through UCAA's FMNR training, applied their knowledge and skills to protect regenerating stems. The protection process involved identifying and marking selected stems with paint, which enabled community members to easily recognize them and avoid cutting. Controlled grazing practices were also introduced to safeguard the young trees from livestock damage.

In addition, communities established fire lines around the FMNR sites to prevent wildfires from destroying regenerating trees. These protective measures have ensured healthy growth of the

indigenous tree species, while also being adopted by households beyond the demonstration sites.



The photo on left above shows members from Cholichol and on right are from Kochito village painting the trees for protection measure to keep them visible on 25th /3/2025 , photo by Lilly

Step 6: Prune unwanted emerging shoots every two to six months as needed

Pruning was repeated in June for the 2 existing sites and the opportunity was used to support the group of Lobok community in pruning of the new site at Lobok village. 20(9 M, 11 F) community members were equipped with various pruning equipment such as gumboots, pangas , hand hoes, slashes, pruners among others for effective pruning and management of the site.

The members were encouraged to continuously monitor the site for better results, and harvests of the pruned branches could provide firewood, charcoal, vegetables, medicines among others.

Step 7: Utilize trees for planned purposes

A total of 208 community members (97 male and 111 female) in Lorengecora Sub-county were supported by UCAA with a variety of fruit tree seedlings, including avocado, mango, orange, and guava. The above tree fruits were all suggested by the community members, and they vowed to protect and attend to them to ensure they establish since with the fruit trees, they will improve of their climate, trees shades as well as food fruits in the villages. They cleared the sites to prepare for transplantation of the seedlings; They were encouraged to put manure to the garden for faster growth of the seedlings.

Community members also established fruit orchards as part of the FMNR approach, complementing the regeneration of indigenous trees that take longer to mature. Elders have played a key role in protecting wild fruit trees, while children will adopt consume these fruits, improving their nutrition and immunity. Beyond household consumption, some fruits will be sold, generating additional income for families.



The photo above shows the LC1 Longora David from Cholichol village handing over the fruit tree seedlings to the school patron Mr. Paul Elungat of the child rights environmental club from Cholichol Primary school and the group members on right on 28th /3/2025

2.1.3. Conservation agriculture (preserving food-trees) initiated by each community

As part of FMNR activities, UCAA supported the diversification of plant species by providing various vegetable seeds to community members in Lorengecora Sub-county. A total of 208 direct beneficiaries from Cholichol, Lobok, and Kochito villages, as well as pupils from Cholichol and Kokipurat Primary Schools, received seeds of sukuma wiki, spinach, eggplants, onions, cabbages, and tomatoes, among others. The practice of conservation agriculture emphasized preserving food-trees and promoting minimum soil disturbance. This approach has helped maintain soil cover, reduce evaporation, conserve soil moisture, and prevent erosion while enriching the soil with organic nutrients.

The initiative has generated multiple benefits for households: improved food security through access to diverse and nutritious vegetables, increased household income from the sale of surplus produce, and strengthened resilience to climate change through sustainable land and soil management practices.



The photo on left shows the community members of Cholichol village and Child rights environmental club Pupils of Cholichol primary school after receiving vegetable seeds on 28th and 29th /3/2025

2.2.1: Introduce environmental conservation practices and energy efficient technologies which complement FMNR (e.g use of pruned-trees for wood-fuel, fodder, medicine, etc)

UCAA trained 50 (30F, 20 M) community members in building of energy savings Lorenz stoves in 50 households of Lobok, Kochito and Cholichol villages in Lorengecora sub-county Napak district. The participants included women, men, youth and elders in the community.

The purpose of this activity was to contribute to environmental restoration in terms of increased area of land managed under FMNR and backyard agro-forestry activities, to create awareness and train on building energy savings stoves to minimize cutting of trees, and promoting sustainable resource management while simultaneously improving household health through reduced indoor air pollution.

The approach fosters local entrepreneurship, empowering communities to become self-sufficient in adopting clean energy solutions and building resilience against climate –related hazards

Feedback on the training attained Lowal Markson explained that “*the training was very good, practical and it was inclusive of adult men and women, youth plus elders all participating equally. This will encourage and improve on men helping their wives in the kitchen since the stove it easy to light and cook with minimal smoke emitted.*” He concluded by saying that they are going to extend the knowledge by training other community members on the innovation, and appreciated UCAA for the initiative.

Trained community members have transferred energy saving technology skill other community members, hence boosting household income through knowledge transfer and reducing reliance on firewood. This has improved women’s health through reduced carbon emissions, created time for productive activities and family care, and fostered household harmony. Overall, FMNR has strengthened land restoration efforts and enhanced community resilience to climate change.





The photos above show participants during practical training process of building the energy savings stove plus the final stages of completion of the building of energy savings stoves.

Outcome 3: Improved food security and livelihoods for 800 male and female farmer groups and pastoralists households.

3.1.1: Facilitate Agro-forestry and intensive livestock production for small farmer groups and pastoralists through use of shade tree for fodder, crop shade etc

A total of 143 beneficiaries (59 male and 84 female) from farmer and pastoralist groups in Cholichol, Lobok, and Kochito villages were supported with Super Napier grass under the FMNR project. The grass was planted both at the demonstration sites and in individual homesteads, providing a reliable source of nutritious animal feeds.

As a result, households reported increased milk yields and improved meat quality due to the high nutritional value of the fodder. The community also adopted semi-intensive livestock rearing methods, which reduced the distances traveled in search of pasture and water. This has freed up time for members to engage in other productive and income-generating activities.

In addition, the livestock waste has provided manure for vegetable gardens, improving soil fertility and boosting household food security. Surplus vegetables are sold to generate income, enabling families to meet other basic needs such as healthcare, education, and clothing.



The photos on the left show some members of Kochito receiving Super Napier grass stems and on right the members of Cholichol during the demonstration of planting the Super Napier grass stems June 2025 and the photo below shows Ochen Charles feeding his goat with the fodder (Super Napier grass) on August 2025.



3.1.2: Train and facilitate alternative community livelihoods options to complement FMNR (Through provision of birds and green grams for livelihoods at household level.

Consultations were conducted with 40 community members (29 female and 11 male) in Lorengecora Sub-county to identify preferred alternative livelihood options. Based on their input, poultry (chicken and ducks) and green grams were selected and supported under the FMNR project.

Community members opted for local chicken and ducks, which are well adapted to local weather conditions and require low-cost feeding and management. Households have since benefited from the sale of eggs for income generation and improved child nutrition through egg consumption. As the poultry multiply, families use them both for food and as a source of additional income. Poultry droppings are also applied as manure in vegetable gardens, improving soil fertility and yields.

In addition, green grams were chosen due to their high market demand and continuous harvesting cycle. Families consume them as a nutritious food source and sell surplus produce to generate income for school fees, medical expenses, and other household needs. The cultivation of green

grams has further contributed to soil improvement through organic matter and moisture retention.



The above photos on left show members of Cholichol, the centre is Kochito group and cholichol primary school pupils received their seeds in May/2025.



The above photo shows Lomongin Mary inspecting the eggs that the hen has laid, on 29th /8/2025, photo by Julius Imuku Program Officer.

Outcome 4: Community-level gender responsive by-laws which promotes FMNR adoption by participating villages in Lorengachora sub-county

4.1.1: Concurrent FMNR monitoring and Support activities

Monitoring by UCAA secretariat and Stakeholder

During the monitoring visit, the UCAA directors observed that the groups had successfully cleared and established FMNR sites, while also identifying indigenous tree species for regeneration. The groups reported that rampant bush burning posed a serious threat to the sites. In response, they dug firebreaks around the plots to safeguard them from wildfires and began sensitizing community members on the dangers of unnecessary bush burning. By the time partners visited, the FMNR groups, together with community members and their committees, had mobilized to secure the sites against fire outbreaks.

During the interaction with the community members and groups, there was a noticeable collective

action of men and women in developing fire-prevention strategies and sensitizing their peers demonstrates inclusive decision-making and shared responsibility. Such practices confirmed the locally discussed by-laws and gender responsiveness among the groups, where both genders participate in defining and enforcing rules against destructive practices like bush burning, thereby promoting long-term adoption of FMNR in Lorengachora sub-county.



The picture above shows one of the FMNR sites that the community and the committee members had cleared, and secured to prevent it from wild fire destruction. In the picture they vow to commit to the regeneration of the trees in Choli choli village in lorengachora Sub County taken on 3rd December 2024.

Monitoring by stakeholders

The monitoring visit to the FMNR was sought purposely to bring on board the stakeholders from the district and sub-county to assess the work of the FMNR participants in relation to gender transformation, and the Deputy RDC Lemu Fardoza appreciated the practice and said the practice has to spread to restore the environments as well as women participation in environmental project activities since karamoja communities are among those affected by de-forestations, and it will also moderate the weather partners.



The above photos on left shows deputy RDC Mrs. Lemu Fardoza appreciating UCAA for the very unique approach for restoring the environment and encouraged the community to continue with the same commitment at Kochito village. April 2025

Monitoring groups and FMNR demonstration sites

Continuous field follow up visits to the groups, FMNR demonstration sites, homestead backyard gardens, VSLAs among others conducted to assess progress, capture achievements, community feedback and challenges being faced by the project beneficiaries. Challenges were addressed where it was needed.

The Kokipurat primary school environmental club children were visited; the members shared their progress on the vegetable gardens. They also shared their feedback on the challenges of water since the school relies on solar pump water, they were advised to normalize the culture of rain harvesting and storage as an immediate and no cost solution. The school administration shared that they had attached 2 teachers to the environmental club members to support them in the FMNR activities, information on the FMNR practices was shared all over the school with all the pupils, they were encouraged to carry out the practices in their home farms during holidays, and could seek more knowledge from the groups in the community since most community members were already well versed with the project.

Some of the photos below were taken during the monitoring field visits



The photos above show on the left children of Kokipurat Primary school maintaining the vegetable gardens and on the right pupils of Cholichol Primary school watering their vegetable gardens May 2025



The photo above top photos shows the UCAA program officer monitoring the pruning process of the members of Kochito as well as offering support during follow up to the FMNR site June 2025.

4.1.2: Support communities to initiate, create or modify and implement bylaws to promote FMNR

A total of 60 members (33 female and 27 male) of the FMNR demonstration site committees—including community leaders, kraal leaders, councilors, and group representatives from Cholichol, Lobok, and Kochito villages—developed and implemented bylaws to govern the management and smooth operation of the sites.

The bylaws have strengthened community ownership of the FMNR project and provided a clear framework for regulating conflicts over resource use. The sub-county leadership has formally adopted these bylaws to promote land restoration and enhance climate resilience by protecting indigenous trees for their economic, social, and environmental benefits. Key provisions include:

- **No animals allowed trespassing or grazing within the site.** Owners of animals found within the site are required to fence the entire area to protect the trees.

- **Firewood collection restrictions.** Anyone collecting firewood from the site is fined UGX 5,000, with the funds used to support committee members working on site management.

4.1.3 Extension of FMNR Training to Lobok Community

A group of 20 members (9 males and 11 females) in Lobok village were supported with pruning equipment following a monitoring visit by the directors and district officials in Kochito village. During the feedback session, the Lobok community group used the opportunity to request support for implementing FMNR in their area, even though it was not originally among the targeted communities.

The community confirmed that one of the elders had already offered a one-hectare plot of land to serve as a demonstration and learning site. In response, UCCA embraced this initiative, expanding the area of land under FMNR and agroforestry. The group was provided with equipment, and the site was cleared and demarcated to ensure effective management and monitoring. Indigenous trees were identified and pruned, while the community also received fodder grass, which was planted both on the site and in individual households.



The above left photo shows Gender based Officer Akongo Lilly guiding the members of Lobok groups on how they can carry on the pruning of the site and the right photo are some of the group members after pruning at the site. June 2025

3. Identified benefits of FMNR

During the pilot implementation of FMNR in Lorengecora Sub-county, communities have realized significant **economic, social, and environmental benefits**, complemented by activities such as fruit tree planting, vegetable cultivation, and use of energy-efficient technologies.

Economic Benefits

- Increased crop yields: FMNR improves soil moisture retention, temperature regulation, and supports mixed cropping. Hence enhanced fodder and pasture from the indigenous

tree regrowth.

- Diversified household income, Value addition from vegetables, fruits, green grams, sunflower, poultry, and herbal medicines, as well as sale of firewood has boosted household earnings while promoting environmental conservation.

Environmental Benefits

FMNR promotes soil protection and fertility by reducing erosion, improving soil structure, and increasing water retention. It enhances biodiversity and tree cover, as regenerating trees and diversified crops restore ecosystems and strengthen climate resilience. By increasing organic matter and maintaining healthy soils, FMNR supports sustainable land management and long-term environmental sustainability.

Participants feedback

Ngorok Domenic an elder from Cholichol village appreciated that “*FMNR practice has helped me identify which trees I can prune off for building the homestead huts, without completely cutting the trees and I will start maintaining all the trees on my farms. I didn't even know that some trees could be used as fodder for animal consumption as well as utilizing the pruned ones for firewood, if we knew this earlier many trees in our community would have been saved and this environmental problem would not be an issue now*”. As an elder he thanked UCAA and the leaders for always welcoming these kinds of projects that empower the community with knowledge for sustainability.

A local leader *Akol Mark* from within Cholichol village appreciated UCAA for the continuous engagement with their community; he said from the offered space to practice our FMNR, we only need to cooperate now. He told the members to come as a family so that we learn from this new innovation, and change the way we treat our environment.

5. Challenges

- Security threats caused by Nabilatuk cattle rustlers who have kept on attacking the communities of Kochito and Lobok. These disrupt FMNR activity mobilizations, the activities were however re-scheduled and conducted eventually when the security improved with 95% attendance of the participants.
- Continuous high expectations from the community
- Weather interference and the on and off rains also interfered with activity implementation, although the project had strategically planned activities based on weather forecasts, the weather has been unreliable which made planning tricky. Activities were also re-scheduled

and implemented eventually.

6. Lessons learnt

- Inclusive nature of FMNR approach has motivated men to work together with women and youth created during the period of implementation
- It has been observed and realized that whereas the community embraced the idea of planting various crops at the FMNR sites, the wild animals continued to eat and destroy them at night.

Recommendations for scale up of the Project achievements

1. Expand FMNR interventions across more villages and sub-counties in Karamoja.
2. Integrate livelihood diversification with restoration, linking FMNR to household food security and income.
3. Strengthen school-based environmental clubs to ensure intergenerational adoption of FMNR.

7. Gender and the Rights Based Approach

- ✓ There was inclusive sensitization of all categories respective of gender, race, and disability at all levels of project implementation in the community.

8. Success stories.

1. A Household Transformed through Vegetable Growing Skills

Tebakol Joseph 29 years, and his wife Nangiro Anna 25 years, are residents of Cholichol village and active members of the Cholichol Farmers' Savings Group. The couple has four children two girls and two boys. One son and daughter are currently attending Cholichol Primary School. Through the project's support of vegetable seeds, the family embraced vegetable growing to improve household nutrition and income. Anna, who is currently expectant, shared how having vegetables within their homestead has made life easier. She no longer walks long distances in search of food, and the family now enjoys a steady supply of nutritious meals. Beyond meeting dietary needs, the vegetables also generate income, enabling them to buy essential household items such as salt, soap, cooking oil, and matches.

The couple works together harmoniously, with Joseph ensuring that Anna has time to rest while he supports the garden work. This spirit of teamwork has strengthened their relationship, reduced conflicts, and created a peaceful home environment. Joseph proudly expressed his commitment to always supporting his wife and encouraged other men in the community to do the same, noting that seeing his family happy is his greatest joy.



The photos above show Akongo Lilly during follow up visit to the family of Tebakol Joseph from Cholichol village on 8th /5/2025, photo by Julius.

2. Ngorok Domenic – Empowered Through FMNR and Energy-Saving Technologies

Ngorok Domenic, an elder from Cholichol Village and a beneficiary of the FMNR project, received additional training from UCAA on the construction and use of efficient energy-saving stoves. During a follow-up visit, he shared how the continuous skills support from UCAA has transformed his household and farm management.

“I have learned how to prune and maintain my trees on my own,” he explained. “I can now identify branches for building my hut, as well as those suitable for firewood, so my wife and children no longer have to travel long distances to collect fuel. The trees provide shade, conserve moisture for my crops, and act as windbreaks, protecting my plants from heavy winds.”

Ngorok further shared that he practices intercropping in his garden, growing bananas, cassava, and green grams alongside tree management. “Everyone is busy and engaged my wife and children attend to the garden while I manage the trees,” he said. He also highlighted the benefits of the energy-saving stove: “It is permanently built inside the kitchen, so we can cook safely even in the rain, and it produces less smoke, improving the air quality in our home and reducing health risks.”

Through FMNR and complementary initiatives like energy-efficient stoves, Ngorok has improved household productivity, nutrition, safety, and environmental stewardship, demonstrating the transformative impact of UCAA’s interventions in Cholichol Village.



The above photo shows elder Domenic Ngorok during the pruning and maintenance of his trees and crops during a follow up as well as measuring the size of his energy savings stoves after training on building the energy savings stoves

3. Success Story: Lokuta Samuel and Nakong Hellen – Youth Empowered Through FMNR and Energy-Saving Technologies

Lokuta Samuel and his wife Nakong Hellen, a young couple from Kochito Village with a two-year-old son, have benefited from UCAA's support through vegetable seeds, training on kitchen gardening, and construction of efficient energy-saving stoves. Samuel shared his excitement about the initiative, emphasizing its economic and practical benefits.

"The stove is very economical it uses less firewood, keeps the food hot for longer, and allows me to cook comfortably, even without my wife," he explained. "From our kitchen garden, we now grow onions, green peppers, and beans, some of which we sell to buy essentials like salt, posho, and cooking oil, making our meals complete."

He added, "The reduced consumption of firewood and charcoal saves money that we can now use for other household needs, helping us plan for the future." Through these interventions, Samuel and Hellen have improved household nutrition, reduced energy costs, and strengthened their capacity to generate income, demonstrating the transformative impact of UCAA's FMNR and energy-saving initiatives on young families in Kochito Village.



The photo above shows Lokuta Samuel on left in his kitchen enjoying cooking with the energy efficient savings stoves after the training and on right is Nakong Hellen his wife threshing Maize as Samuel attends to their baby on 31/8/2025 at Kochito village.

9. Conclusion

The project has successfully enhanced community knowledge and practices on sustainable livelihoods while promoting land restoration through FMNR and agroforestry. Communities and leaders have embraced the initiative, demonstrated ownership with strong participation from leaders, VSLA groups, community youth and schools, and begun applying the skills gained, resulting in improved food security, better management of natural resources, and greater resilience to climate change. These combined achievements and impacts show clear progress toward the project's overall goal of building sustainable, climate-resilient communities in Lorengochora sub-county despite the short project timeline. In addition the district is looking forward to the long term impact of this re-greening project in the region and still advocating for scaling it up to the rest of karamoja.